

# Burkina Faso

1 January – 31 May 2022

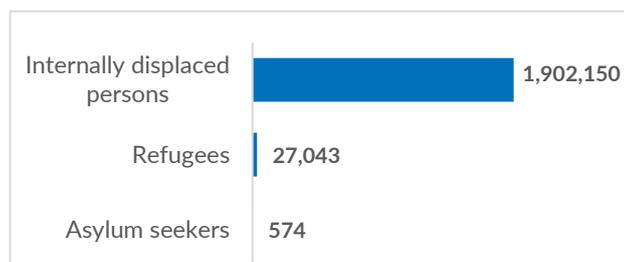
As of 30 April 2022, **1,902,150 persons have fled their homes in search of safety**, increasingly moving towards urban centres, and contributing to the acceleration of urbanization. In comparison to April 2021, the total number of IDPs has **increased by almost 40%**. In addition, as of 31 May, Burkina Faso was hosting, **27,614** refugees and asylum seekers.

**Mobile teams to respond to Gender Based Violence (GBV)** are operational in **eight regions** and a total of **24 community-led safe spaces** have been constructed/refurbished since 2020 to **offer women and girls information** about **available services** and on issues relating to **women's rights, health in safety and confidentiality**.

As part of the search for durable solutions for refugees living in Burkina Faso, **third-country resettlement** remains an important international tool to protect the **most vulnerable refugees**. In May, a **first case was recommended to a resettlement country**, under the Survivor of Violence/Torture and Legal and Physical Protection Needs categories.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### Burkina Faso



\* IDP figure refers to internally displaced persons across the country recorded on 30 April 2022 by the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR).

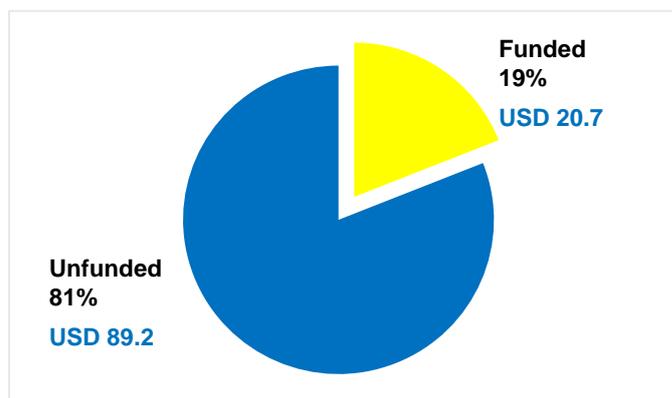
\*\* Unregistered asylum seekers figure refers to the persons under the registration process in UNHCR system proGres.

\*\*\* Registered refugees and asylum seekers include 54% women 46% men. 23,940 lives in the North and Sahel regions and 3,677 live in urban areas in Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso.

## FUNDING (AS OF 31 MAY 2022)

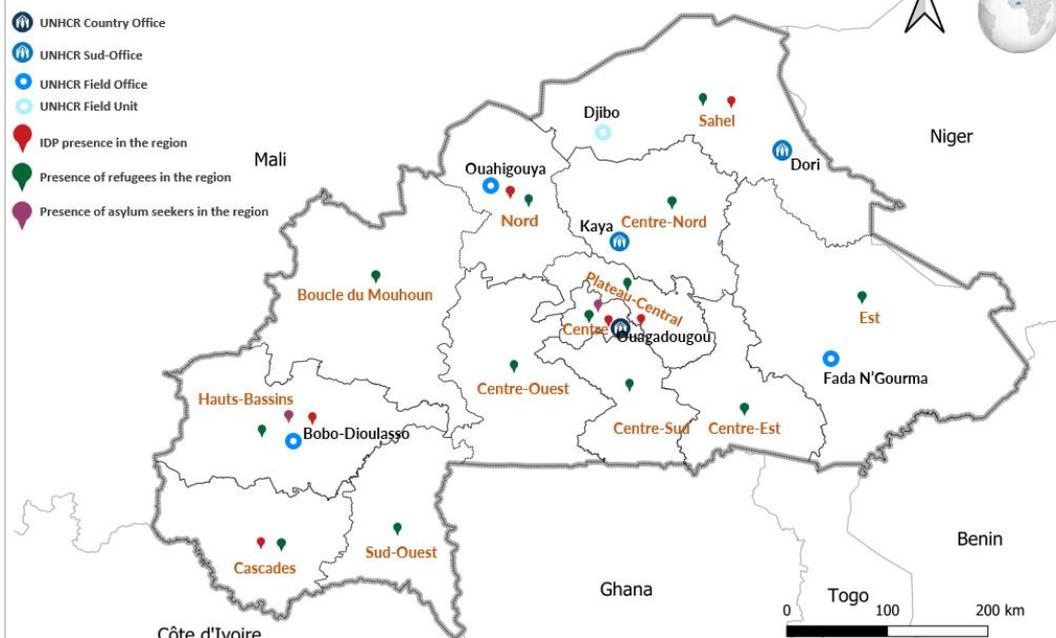
# USD 109.9 M

requested for the Burkina Faso situation



## Legend

-  UNHCR Country Office
-  UNHCR Sud-Office
-  UNHCR Field Office
-  UNHCR Field Unit
-  IDP presence in the region
-  Presence of refugees in the region
-  Presence of asylum seekers in the region



The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used in this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations  
 Creation date: June 09, 2022 Sources: proGres (UNHCR); CONASUR data Contact: bkfouim@unhcr.org

## Presence of UNHCR

### 7 Offices:

- **1 Country Office:**  
Ouagadougou
- **2 Sub Offices:** Kaya & Dori
- **3 Field Offices:**
  - Bobo Dioulasso
  - Ouahigouya
  - Fada-Ngourma
- **1 Field unit:**
  - Djibo

### 167 staff:

- **111 National Staff**
- **56 International Staff**



## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- In Burkina Faso, UNHCR works with 21 implementing partners, amongst which the Government and its technical entities, UN sister agencies and development actors. The **Multi-Year Multi-Partners (MYMP) strategy 2022-2025**, the implementation of which has started this year, brings together a full range of national and international stakeholders, including authorities, the UN and humanitarian country teams (UNCT and HCT), development actors, the private sector, displaced people, host communities and civil society. The MYMP aims to ensure a comprehensive response to the needs of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), persons at risk of statelessness and other persons of concern to UNHCR by enhancing access to protection, promoting the inclusion of all affected persons in national programmes through the active engagement of all major state and non-state actors.
- UNHCR coordinates the response for all refugees in Burkina Faso with the **National Commission for Refugees (CONAREF)** and its other governmental partners, UN agencies, local and international partners.
- With regards to the response for IDPs, direct interventions are undertaken with local, regional, and national authorities, including the **National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR)**. In line with the Humanitarian Reform and IASC mechanisms, UNHCR leads the (i) Protection, (ii) Shelter/Core Relief Items (CRIs) and (iii) CCCM/GSAT (*Gestion des Sites d'Accueil Temporaires*) Clusters. (i) The Protection cluster ensures the central character of protection in all humanitarian action and beyond, through coordination with national and regional humanitarian actors as well as with the other clusters. (ii) As part of its coordination role, the Shelter cluster continues to strengthen the harmonization and coordination of the response, while also informing partners of any existing gap. (iii) Regarding the GSAT activities, the government's coordination and management capacities on sites and camp-like settings are reinforced through various tools.
- On 4 March, the **2022 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)** for Burkina Faso has been released, targeting three million persons whose needs have been estimated at USD 590 million. However, due to increasing number of displacements, the released version is being amended accordingly.
- As of 31 May 2022, at almost mid-year, the **Protection Cluster'** interventions were only funded beyond **10%** and reached **11%** of the targeted people; while the **Shelter/CRIs' Cluster** response only covered **20%** of shelter needs and **16%** of CRIs needs, with **UNHCR** covering respectively, **38%** and **44%** of these interventions. The **CCCM/GSAT Cluster**, only funded **16%**, covers 52 IDPs' temporary reception sites, and eight IDP reception areas, including 77% covered by UNHCR, in the Center-North, Sahel, North, East and Boucle du Mouhoun regions.
- Beyond its cluster responsibilities, UNHCR continues to play a key role in interagency fora, particularly on issues such as the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)/Sexual harassment (SH) within the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT).
- The reduction in funding has negatively impacted the emergency response, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and OCHA has set up in 2021, an Emergency Response Teams (ERT) in order to respond to new population movements in a more coordinated and timely manner. During the reporting period, as part of the ERT response, there were 10 joint ERT missions in five regions of the country. In the Boucle du Mouhoun, North, South-West and Sahel regions, jointly UNICEF and UNHCR assisted more than 3,000 displaced and host families with essentials non-food items (NFI) kits and UNHCR has also provided emergency shelter to more than 1,400 displaced and host families. While WFP provided food for 15 days to those in need.
- UNHCR actively participated and co-facilitated a five-day Training of Trainers (ToT) to reinforce the capacities on PSEA for focal points of Agencies/NGOs and Clusters/Sectoral Groups in Burkina Faso. PSEA organizational capacity assessment process was also presented to all UNHCR implementing partners, in order to provide adequate safeguards and appropriate actions related to PSEA in accordance with the special provisions of the Secretary General's Bulletin and the minimum standards of the UN Protocol.

- As part of the GBV mainstreaming efforts, UNHCR strengthened both members of the Shelter cluster and the Housing, Land and Property (HLP) AoR, on their respective roles and responsibilities to jointly address the risks of GBV, introduced to the appropriate tools to integrate GBV Risk mitigation into Shelter and HLP programming as well as on how to securely manage GBV incidents disclosure and referral.
- At the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Climate Change, UNHCR provided inputs on the different manifestations of GBV experienced by women and girls related to the climate crisis and the response and mitigation activities it has implemented. The outcomes of this meeting will inform the upcoming report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences at the 77th UN General Assembly.

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS



### Protection

- Through its MYMP, UNHCR in Burkina Faso will continue to strengthen protection and opportunities for PoCs to live in safety and dignity through the: - **Enjoyment of their legal rights**; - **Equitable access to basic social services**; - **Expansion of livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion** and - **Expansion of opportunities for self-sufficiency, social protection and durable solutions**.
- With persisting insecurity and the complexification of the operational context, UNHCR supports the Government of Burkina Faso in its efforts to ensure that refugees and IDPs are protected, live in safety and dignity, and progressively attain lasting solutions to their plights. Within the framework of its MYMP, UNHCR's protection interventions are implemented along the six following strategic priorities: **i)** Strengthening and enforcement of the protective legal framework; **ii)** Consolidation of peace, security and social cohesion through the strengthening of community-based protection mechanisms; **iii)** registration and documentation of IDPs, refugees and effective implementation of the national action plan to combat statelessness; **iv)** Access to quality basic social services; **v)** Self-sufficiency of Persons of Concern (PoCs) and host communities, supporting local development and innovation; **vi)** Durable solutions for refugees and IDPs. These priorities will support Burkina Faso's humanitarian, development and peace priorities as well as contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- In May 2022, the protection cluster trained the members of the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) including all cluster coordinators and information management officers on Protection Mainstreaming. It also shared an **analysis of the protection risks linked to military operations in the Sahel Region**, in particular: - **Risks linked to the forced displacement of populations**; - **Risks linked to GBV**; - **Risks of assassinations/summary executions**; - **Risks of psychological and physical violence**; - **Risks of enlisting men in non-state armed groups (GANE)**.
- UNHCR's Protection Monitoring (Project 21) has enabled the identification of protection needs and informed UNHCR and its partners' multi-sectoral response over the reporting period. According to data collected from January to May 2022, 619 families, spread over 192 communes, incl. 289 single women head of household were interviewed. According to data collected, a total of 584 incidents resulting from the precarious security and protection environment were collected and documented. These incidents entailed 28% of violations of the right to life, 25% of violations of liberty and security of the person, 18% of violations of the right to property, 15% of denial or forced restriction of movement, as well as 6% of GBV and 1% of violations of children's rights. These human rights violations have affected 15,587 victims and survivors within both displaced and host communities.

### Refugees

- Strategic priorities which take into account all refugees, including those living in a mixed environment are as follows: **i)** to ensure access to territory and asylum, as well as to maintain the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum in a context of deepening insecurity and the COVID-19 pandemic;

- ii) to pursue the inclusion of refugees in national plans; iii) to search integrated durable solutions (voluntary repatriation, local integration prospects, resettlement and complementary pathways,); iv) to strengthen livelihood opportunities, despite the complex humanitarian and security context, while also taking into consideration environmental challenges.
- Furthermore, in order to have reliable data on asylum seekers and refugees present on its territory, the government, through the CONAREF and with the support of UNHCR, has developed a physical and biometric verification strategy to be implemented by the end of the year. This strategy provides for the use of protection monitoring agents to reach POCs installed in inaccessible localities. By the end of May, 4,136 refugees had been registered or verified in Bobo-Dioulasso and Ouahigouya in the Hauts-Bassins and North regions respectively and 399 asylum seekers were identified in inaccessible localities in the northern region.
  - 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. In May, the first case from Burkina Faso was submitted to the United States of America under Survivor of Violence/Torture and Legal and Physical Protection Needs categories. A number of interviews are ongoing, and submissions are to follow in the coming months. A schedule has been drawn up and interviews are underway to enable the quota of 100 people to be submitted for resettlement by the end of the year.
  - As far as the search for durable solutions for Malian refugees is concerned, UNHCR has, in close collaboration with the government, local authorities, UN agencies, the World Bank, NGOs and all other stakeholders, developed a **strategy for the socio-economic inclusion of Malian refugees** in the town of Dori, with a two-phase approach. The first phase aims to stabilise the situation of refugees in the town of Dori and the second phase is oriented towards the humanitarian-development nexus and the search for solutions by ensuring the centrality of partnership and the strengthening of peaceful coexistence between the different communities (Refugees, IDPs, host communities). This will enable refugees to secure livelihood opportunities and become self-reliant. In order to adapt the protection system to their new urban context and after the stabilization phase of this strategy a **One-Stop-Shop** under the administration of CONAREF has been set up in the town of Dori for Malian refugees and asylum seekers, who now have a space to access humanitarian and governmental actors in dignity and security. This multipurpose One-Stop-Shop includes a place of reception, information, orientation and support where all urban refugees can access assistance and protection services and file a complaint.
  - Facilitation for **voluntary repatriation** will continue for non-Malian refugees. While the Burkina Faso-Mali-UNHCR Tripartite Commission held two sessions in August and November 2021, voluntary repatriation operations remained suspended for Malian refugees due to the unfavorable security situation prevailing in the return areas in Mali.

## IDPs

- UNHCR decisively contributes to the emergency and protection response, through a number of key activities such as registration and documentation, protection monitoring, and response to protection cases (incl. GBV). As of 31 May 2022, thanks to UNHCR support, CONASUR registered **1,902,150 IDPs** – more than the double of displacement level as of the same period in 2021. The information collected during this registration further informed the planning of humanitarian and development interventions.
- In accordance with its Global Action Plan against statelessness and in the context of the global #IBelong campaign to eradicate statelessness by 2024, UNHCR provided the Government of Burkina Faso with capacity building support in the Boucle du Mouhoun, North and East regions. A total of 140 key actors benefited from these capacity building on the legal standards for the issuance of civil documentation to persons at risk of statelessness and it resulted in the identification of beneficiaries

and the establishment of a roadmap for the issuance of civil documentation for persons at risk of statelessness.

- To mitigate the risks of statelessness and to provide a pathway towards lasting solutions by facilitating people's access to rights, such as freedom of movement, economic opportunities, as well as to social services, including education and health, UNHCR through its partners Directorate-General for the Modernization of Civil Status (DGMEC) and National Identification Office (ONI) issued 7,043 civil status and identity documents.



### Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- GBV and Child's rights violations represent the main risks amongst affected population. In collaboration with partners, UNHCR continues to implement prevention, case management, response and risk mitigation activities.
- Mobile teams to prevent and respond to GBV are operational in eight regions and a total of 24 community-led safe spaces have been constructed/refurbished since 2020 to offer women and girls information about available services and on issues relating to women's rights, health in safety and confidentiality. Through safe spaces for women and girls and mobile GBV teams, UNHCR and its partners have ensured that survivors who consent to them have access to adequate care services and benefit from appropriate multi-sectoral assistance, and referrals made in accordance with the inter-agency strategic operational procedures (SOPs) in place and in compliance with the guiding principles.
- UNHCR also continues to build the capacities of its partners and strengthen GBV prevention, through the promotion of communication for behavioral change and community protection mechanisms in order to reduce harmful traditional practices. In particular, with the Community Engagement and Accountability Working Group (CEAWG), UNHCR validated collective messages translated into local languages to be disseminated via VIAMO's 3-2-1 service, a digital/telephone service that provide key messages on a variety of themes. Around 7,500 people were connected to the platform during the reporting period and downloaded approx. 36,000 messages providing information on several themes such as GBV; PSEA; Documentation; Child protection; Livelihoods; social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. Viamo provides solutions in landscapes where technology infrastructure is poor, populations are divided by language diversity, and where education and literacy levels are low, and this partnership allow UNHCR to spark behavior change on specific thematic.



### Education

- UNHCR and partners continues to facilitate the inclusion of IDPs and refugees in the national education system and are working to strengthen the capacities and skills of PoCs with the aim of furthering livelihood opportunities and socio-economic inclusion.
- During the reporting period, as part of the joint project "Training refugee students in digital professions" implemented by UNHCR, the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) and Simplon<sup>1</sup>, 13 refugees, including three women, followed a training course leading to a qualification in web development. This innovative project will allow 13 refugee students, including three women, to seize more opportunities on the job market through their skills in web development. These students benefited from the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) scholarship to facilitate their training.

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<sup>1</sup> Simplon is a network of digital and inclusive factories around the world wishing to make digital a real lever for inclusion but also to reveal talents among people who are little represented in the sector.

- UNHCR organized a preliminary feedback workshop, following the survey on the “barriers to access to education for children in situations of forced displacement in the Central Sahel region - Burkina Faso”, administrated to 100 refugee families within the framework the Multi-Year Resilience Program funded (MYRP) by Education Cannot Wait (ECW) for the Central Sahel and implemented by the UNHCR-UNICEF-NRC consortium. The workshop brought together 35 participants ranging from the Ministry of National Education, UNICEF, and international organizations. While approving the preliminary results, the participants strongly recommended that the conclusions of "fourth International Conference on the Safe Schools Declaration in Abuja" be considered and that an inter-ministerial committee be set up to enrich the national report in preparation.
- From 22 to 28 May 2022, UNHCR participated in the Global Education Cluster (GEC) Basic Skills training in La Somone-Senegal, organized by Save the Children, UNICEF and the Global Education Cluster. This training, which brought together specialists in education and information management, aimed to strengthen the capacities of participants, with a view to improving the quality of the response in education for the benefit of children affected by crises around the world.



### Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)

- Most refugees and IDPs live in environments where they can access the same markets and services as local communities. Providing them with cash enables them to fulfil their needs in a dignified manner and contributes to the local economy. During the reporting period, 180 people with specific needs, including 108 IDPs and 72 refugees, received multipurpose cash (MPC) assistance amounting to a total of XOF 5,855,000. MPC provides greater flexibility and choice for people in need to help them meet their basic needs.



### Health and COVID-19 Response

- While the access to basic social services remains a challenge due to the increase of displacement, UNHCR and its partners continued to support refugees' access to health care. During the reporting period, UNHCR provided support for the medical care of refugees based in the Sahel region as well as in Bobo Dioulasso and Ouagadougou. In Dori, UNHCR and its partners reached 1,248 refugee and asylum seeker children aged between nine and 59 months received the vaccine against pneumonia.
- UNHCR and its partners continued to support the Government of Burkina Faso in addressing the outbreak and focused their efforts on sensitization, prevention, and response to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on persons of concern in nine regions of the country. As of 31 May, Burkina Faso has recorded 21,044 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 387 deaths and 20,632 recoveries. In total, more than 3,680 refugees and asylum seekers have fully completed a COVID-19 vaccination scheme since the national vaccination campaign started on 2 June 2021. This represents an achievement rate of 31.7% for all eligible PoCs.



### Shelter and Core-Relief-Items (CRIs)

- In order 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 CRI 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 reporting period, UNHCR provided to 2,736 households (24,843 individuals), including emergency shelters commonly designed to provide temporary and immediate shelter assistance, semi-durable as well as long term shelters including eco-friendly Nubian vault type shelters. The shelters were accompanied by the distribution of 2,202 CRIs to 2,202 households (15,414 individuals), including 594 distributed through CBI.



## Durable Solutions and Development

- The steady deterioration of the security situation and the expansion of areas affected by violence with serious human rights violations make the emergency response insufficient and require a transition from emergency response to more sustainable solutions. Through an area-based approach and a wide partnership, UNHCR is working on alternative and sustainable settlement solutions for IDPs inside and outside the cities.
- As of 31 May 2022, UNHCR and UN HABITAT continued to provide technical support to the Ministry of Urbanism, Land Affairs and Housing. As the Ministry currently works on the development of an initiative aiming at supporting the inclusion of IDPs by local authorities in the Center-North region, UNHCR and UN HABITAT took part in working sessions with the Ministry to bring their respective expertise in terms of protection and urban planning. This initiative is the result of in-depth and inclusive discussions organized since July 2021, around the local authorities of the six most displacement-affected communes in the Center-North region. This initiative is fully aligned with the Ministry's plan to concretely contribute to the current displacement crisis, as per the Transition Action Plan (PAT) which has commended each ministerial department "to manage the consequences of the security and humanitarian crisis that Burkina Faso is experiencing". In the framework of further developing this initiative, an action plan has been adopted by the Minister to ensure that it follows an inter-ministerial approach. This might lead to the publication of a concept note that the Ministries concerned could present to Burkina Faso's financial and technical partners, along with thematic technical experts from UNHCR and UN HABITAT.
- UNHCR continue to actively pursue strategic collaboration with key development partners to promote and advocate for public policies and an investment agenda that fully include the socio-economic inclusion of IDPs, their empowerment and well-being, both in the most affected secondary cities and municipal capitals. Following the successful completion of UNHCR Technical Assistance Project, in the framework of the World Bank-funded *Projet d'Appui aux Collectivités Territoriales (PACT)* that has been completed in 2021; several joint World Bank-PACT-UNHCR preparatory working sessions were held in January 2022. These sessions provided an opportunity to consider the pursuit of collaboration in the framework of the second phase of the PACT, which is expected to be effective by June 2022. This second phase should target a significant number of the most displacement-affected municipalities, with a particular focus on supporting the delivery of civil status services and documentation.

### Special thanks to donors who have contributed directly to the Burkina Faso operation as of 31 May 2022.

United States of America | France | African Development Bank Group | United Kingdom | Luxembourg | Monaco | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | Private donors |

### UNHCR also thanks its other donors for their flexible and unearmarked contributions.

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