

Burkina Faso

1 January – 31 December 2021

As of 31 December, 1,579,976 persons have fled their homes in search of safety, increasingly moving towards urban centres, contributing to accelerate urbanization. In comparison to January 2021, the total number of IDPs has increased by 69,4%. Of these, 53% women and 52% children from zero to fourteen years old.

In the last quarter of 2021, UNHCR presented its 2022-2025 multi-year and multi-partner strategy (MYMP) to governmental and non-governmental actors as well as donors present in Burkina Faso. Current and prospective partners have all been involved in the regional workshops held in Ouahigouya, Dori, Kaya, Fada and Bobo-Dioulasso.

As of 31 December, Burkina Faso continues to generously host 25,008 refugees and asylum seekers, 98% of whom are from Mali. Of these, 54% are women and 56% children under the age of seventeen years old. Due to insecurity in Goudoubo, 12,978 refugees have fled the camp for the town of Dori. In 2021, at least 6,215 additional arrivals from Mali have been registered.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Burkina Faso

Internally displaced persons	1,579,976
Refugees	25,008
Asylum seekers	34

* IDP figure refers to internally displaced persons across the country recorded on 30 November 2021 by the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR).

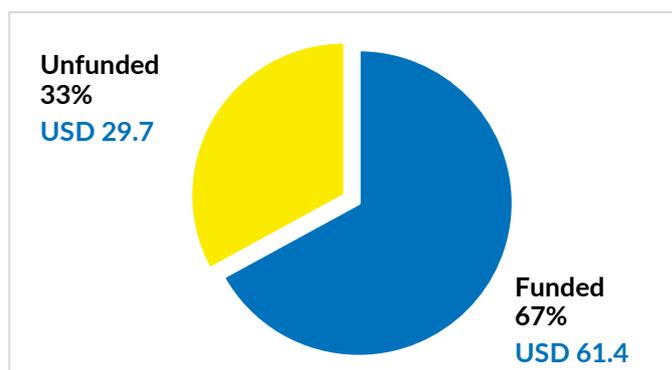
** Unregistered asylum seekers figure refers to the persons under the registration process in UNHCR system proGres.

*** Registered refugees and asylum seekers include 54% women 46% men. 21,172 live in the Sahel region and 2,978 live in urban areas in Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso.

FUNDING (AS OF 29 DECEMBER 2021)

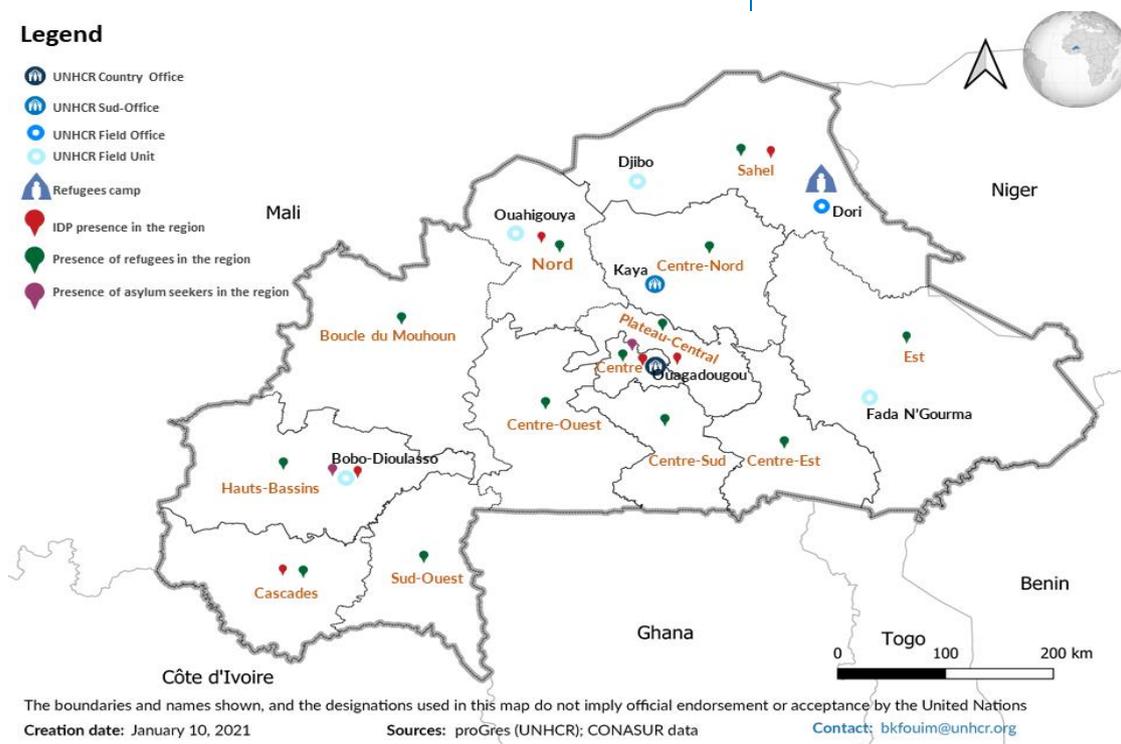
USD 91.2 M

requested for the Burkina Faso situation



Legend

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



Presence of UNHCR

07 Offices:

- 1 Country Office: Ouagadougou
- 1 Sub Office: Kaya
- 1 Field Office: Dori
- 4 Field units:
 - Bobo Dioulasso
 - Ouahigouya
 - Fada-N'gourma
 - Djibo

167 staff:

- 111 National Staff
- 56 International Staff



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- In Burkina Faso, UNHCR works with 20 implementing partners, amongst which the Government and its technical entities, UN sister agencies and development actors. The Multi Year Multi Partners (MYMP) strategy, which will guide UNHCR's action for the 2022-2025 period, will bring 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. This MYMP strategy will comprehensively respond to the needs of refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), those at risk of statelessness and other persons of concern (PoCs) to UNHCR, while reinforcing their access to protection and the realization of durable solutions.
- 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. Limited resources and growing displacement have impacted the response.
- **As of 31 December 2021, the Protection Cluster' interventions were only funded at 23% and reached 80% of the targeted people ; while the Shelter/CRIs response only covered 52% of shelter needs, with UNHCR covering 49% of these interventions.**
- 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). In this area, UNHCR pursued its work with the HCT, towards the strengthening of the joint PSEA coordination in Burkina Faso. This support allowed mainly to (i) draft the 2021-2024 interagency PSEA-SH strategy and its related action plan, (ii) strengthen the capacities of HCT/UNCT members and the members of the WASH, Health, Shelter, CCCM and Education Clusters on the IASC learning module "Say NO to sexual misconduct", (iii) as well as strengthen the capacities on the integration of Accountability to Affected People (AAP)/PSEA. In addition, UNHCR staff and partners were trained on PSEA/SH, the Code of Conduct and AAP, and a network of 89 focal points within all UNHCR offices and partners was established. UNHCR is also engaged in the "Community Engagement and Accountability Working Group" and supports the establishment of complaints, feedback and accountability mechanisms within the framework of the CCCM/GSAT Cluster.
- UNHCR has launched the assessment of its Partners' organizational capacities to prevent and mitigate the risks of SEA, in accordance with the special provisions of the Secretary-General's Circular, as well as the minimum standards of the "Protocol of United Nations Implementing Partners Relating to Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse Involving Implementing Partners" (also known as the "United Nations Protocol").



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

- With growing 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. UNHCR's protection interventions are implemented along the following axis: i) data collection and analysis; ii) registration and documentation of IDPs; iii) Community-based protection with an emphasis on education and Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention, risk mitigation and response; iv) peaceful coexistence between refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities. These four pillars 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).
- From 6 to 7 December 2021 and in collaboration with ICRC, OCHA, OHCHR, UNMAS and the Protection Cluster in Burkina Faso, **UNHCR organized a workshop on the protection of civilians that gathered 38 protection and humanitarian actors in Ouagadougou as well as on the field.** Participants successfully shared lessons learnt and best practices on (i) the mainstreaming and use of International Humanitarian Law in the Protection Monitoring, (ii) the sharing of regular/timely information, (iii) analysis and advocacy. This workshop also enabled the operationalization of the guidance on maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of sites, settlements and asylum and to pilot some modules of UNHCR's "Protection in armed conflict" toolkit. Finally, this workshop resulted in the elaboration of a draft action plan for the Protection of civilians in Burkina Faso.
- Efforts to reinforce the legal framework for the protection of IDPs are on-going. **From 8 to 10 December, with UNHCR's technical support, the Protection Cluster conducted a national workshop to discuss avenues for the acceleration of efforts for the domestication of the Kampala Convention in Burkina Faso.** This workshop involved various stakeholders from the Inter-Ministerial Committee, sister UN agencies, NGOs, and the civil society. Having allowed participants to better understand the key requirements for the domestication of the Convention, this workshop further allowed the development of a roadmap for the transposition of the Kampala Convention into Burkina Faso's national law. In addition, this workshop resulted in the validation of the terms of reference (ToRs) for the national consultant whose main function will consist in supporting and advising the Government of Burkina Faso throughout the process of internalizing the provisions of the Kampala Convention in Burkinabè domestic law.

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 and explore alternatives to camps; iii) to search integrated durable solutions (voluntary repatriation, profiling for resettlement and complementary pathways, local integration's prospects); iv) to strengthen livelihood opportunities, despite the complex humanitarian and security context, while also taking into consideration environmental challenges.
- **Since May 2021, the security situation progressively deteriorated with targeted attacks in and around the camp that culminated in November 2021, to refugees fleeing the camp and leaving it empty.** As of 31 December, approx. 2,600 refugee families fled to the town of Dori and its surroundings. They have been welcomed by the local authorities and inhabitants. UNHCR continues to work with authorities and partners to support refugees wherever they have settled; strengthen infrastructures as well as foster their inclusion within national services and development programmes. UNHCR's [press release](#) of November 2021 condemns the attacks on the refugee camp and calls on the armed elements to respect international humanitarian law and to stop their attacks

on refugees and other civilians. In coordination with the Government and other partners, UNHCR also activated the Refugee Coordination Model in the Sahel and subsequently, established the Coordination Forum for Refugees, in order to reinforce synergies between all stakeholders working to protect and find solutions for refugees in the Sahel region.

- **On 11 and 12 August, the Governments of Burkina Faso and Mali and UNHCR held the 10th Tripartite Commission Meeting.** This meeting focused on the continuous pursuit of durable solutions for refugees hosted in both countries. Some of the key recommendations agreed by the three parties included amongst others: (i) the sharing of information on the security and humanitarian situation in Mali, (ii) the identification and registration of asylum-seekers in Burkina Faso, (iii) continued efforts to facilitate refugees' access to documentation in Burkina Faso and returnees in Mali, (iv) the conduction of regular surveys on refugees' intention to return their respective countries.
- **On 12 November, the 11th Meeting of the Burkina Faso-Mali-UNHCR Tripartite Commission started by videoconference.** The virtual opening went well, and Members of the Technical Working Group are continuing their work. The meeting has not been closed as scheduled and might reconvene at a later date.

IDPs

- UNHCR decisively contributes to the emergency and protection response, through a number of key activities such as registration, protection monitoring, and response to protection cases (incl. Gender Based Violence (GBV)). **As of 31 December, thanks to UNHCR support, the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR) registered 1,579,796 IDPs - a 69,4% increase compared to January 2021.** The information collected during this registration further informed the planning of humanitarian and development interventions.
- According to data collected by UNHCR and its partners in the framework of the Protection Monitoring, in 2021 a total of 38,375 protection incidents in the form of rights violations were identified, amongst whom 47,4% denials or forced restrictions of movement, 20,4% infringements of the freedom and security of the person, and 12,8% attacks on physical or psychological integrity. During the year, 910 cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV) were also reported, mainly affecting women (80%) and children (11%). Moreover, the cities that received the most IDPs were Dablo in the Centre-North region, Ouindigui and Koumbri in the North region and Zimtenga in the Centre-North region. Further, the main causes of tension between communities are House Land and Property (HLP) issues and the lack of socio-economic opportunities. Thus, approximately 37% of the conflicts were between farmers and herders.
- UNHCR supports the provision and recognition of civil status documentation for IDPs and host communities, 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 and its Government counterparts, the Directorate-General for the Modernization of Civil Status (DGMEC) and the CONASUR, are working together to provide birth certificates and national identity cards to IDPs and host communities. **In 2021, a total of 60,741 civil status and identity documents, including 47,000 supplementary birth certificates as well as 13,741 national identity cards have been provided to members from IDP and host communities.** In addition, other major achievements were accomplished such as: (i) the establishment of a strategy facilitating the instantaneous delivery of birth certificates to IDPs and host populations; (ii) the strengthening of the skills of 60 civil service administration executives on the legal mechanisms for issuing civil status certificates.



Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- The UN Refugee Agency reinforced the prevention and response to GBV, including by expanding mobile team services in one hand, and in the other hand piloting a remote case management project in hard-to-reach areas of the Sahel region that establishes safe spaces for women and girls. UNHCR

also continued to strengthen GBV prevention, through the promotion of communication for behavioural change and community protection mechanisms in order to reduce harmful traditional practices. In particular, UNHCR continued to build the capacity of its partners and service providers, notably through the establishment of an informal GBV Working Group. Finally, UNHCR also supported the launch of the Government National GBV hotline in March 2021, in collaboration with UNFPA and IOM.

- As part of the GBV mainstreaming efforts, UNHCR organized a four-day internal workshop on “Mainstreaming gender-based violence (GBV) risk mitigation” in Ouagadougou, in October 2021. This workshop allowed to establish a common understanding of responsibilities and to develop stakeholders’ (including cluster coordinators) skills on mainstreaming GBV risk mitigation across all their respective areas of work. As a result, regional action plans were developed and fed the Operation’s detailed discussions for its 2022 planification. Further, UNHCR trained 24 GSAT coordinators in the North region in the identification of GBV risks and gaps, the development of possible actions to reduce them and securely manage the reporting of GBV incidents and their adequate referral.
- As part of the ‘16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)’ campaign, UNHCR conducted various activities, including the organization of a forum that successfully engaged traditional and religious leaders in the fight against GBV in the Centre-North region, as well as the presentation of UNHCR’s Policy on the Prevention of, Risk Mitigation, and Response to Gender-based Violence to the seven offices of the UNHCR Operation.



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. **In 2021, UNHCR provided an amount of XOF 1 billion (USD 1,7 million) in multi-purpose cash to 8,000 refugee, IDP and host community families** for the construction of semi-durable shelters and the acquisition of CRI kits, livelihood activities and the creation of micro enterprises, as well as the acquisition of dignity kits. Further, at least 2,602 most vulnerable persons of concern to UNHCR were provided with cash as part of the assistance provided as part of protection monitoring activities.



Health and COVID-19 Response

- In 2021, UNHCR provided support for the medical care of refugees based in the Sahel region as well as in Bobo Dioulasso and Ouagadougou. A total of 40,289 consultations were organized with the most recurrent pathologies identified as follows: respiratory infections 26.91%, confirmed malaria 24.50%, and diarrheal diseases 10.01%. 328 pregnant women from the refugee and host communities were followed, and, amongst them, 296 women were provided with assistance for their childbirth by medical personnel. 125 cases were referred from Dori to Ouagadougou hospitals. 407 refugees with specific needs were affiliated with mutual health insurance in Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso. To facilitate the inclusion of refugees in the health system, reduce the incidence of perinatal maternal deaths, UNHCR and WHO supported the Government in the construction and equipment of the blood transfusion unit in Dori, that is worth XOF 253,160,855 (USD 430,912). Furthermore, UNHCR also initiated the construction of four advanced health posts to allow for the care of IDPs, refugees and host communities in the health district of Dori.
- As of 31 December 2021, Burkina Faso has recorded 17,632 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 695 active cases, 318 deaths and 16,937 recoveries. 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. Up to date, the Government has received 2,7 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX Initiative and bilateral donations, including Astra Zeneca, Johnson

& Johnson and Sinopharm. Since the start of the vaccination campaign, launched by the Minister of Health on 2 June 2021, 1,133,497 people – including health agents and 84 refugees – have been vaccinated. **On 19 November, UNHCR donated medical equipment for a total worth of XOF 71 million (USD 120,851.00 million) to the Ministry of Health, Public Hygiene and Welfare of Burkina Faso.** The donation is composed of 55 oxygen concentrators, 27 reanimation kits, 23 pulse oximeters, 58 infrared thermometers, 23,720 surgical gowns and 89,400 surgical masks.

- UNHCR implemented a COVID-19 project funded by the African Development Bank-funded to the benefit of refugees, IDPs and host communities. This project aimed in one hand, at strengthening the national health system and supporting the COVID-19 through the organization of training and the acquisition of medical items (equipment, consumables, drugs, and reagents). In the other hand, this project aimed at facilitating the acquisition and distribution of handwashing devices, agricultural inputs and livestock feed, the construction and rehabilitation of latrines and water points. As a result, on 14 October, **UNHCR provided medical inputs worth XOF 537 million (USD 914,745.00 million) to the Ministry of Health, Public Hygiene and Welfare.** These inputs include ambulances, medical tents, beds, consumables, reagents, and equipment. Finally, in the framework of this African Development Bank-funded project, UNCHR facilitated trainings on COVID-19 for public and private health personnel throughout the country.



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.
- In 2021, UNHCR provided a total of 9,485 shelters, including 8,984 emergency shelters, 440 semi durable shelters, to the benefit of 66,395 individuals. 61 durable shelters of the Nubian Vault type were also provided thanks to funding from the Kingdom of Belgium. The shelters were accompanied by the distribution of 10,449 CRIs including 3,140 kits provided through cash transfer and 7,309 kits provided in kind for 73,143 individuals. 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.



Durable Solutions and Development

- UNHCR actively pursued 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 and their autonomization and well-being, both in the most affected secondary cities and municipal capitals. UNHCR has been working closely with the German technical cooperation agency (GIZ) in the identification and preparation phases of a new project aiming at supporting and strengthening the capacities of the municipalities of the Center-North region. Moreover, UNHCR provided technical assistance to a national support project to municipalities (*Programme d'Appui aux Collectivités Territoriales, PACT*), funded by the World Bank, which ended on 30 September. The implementation of the PACT project targeted 108 communes of the six regions prioritized in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). UNHCR's contribution to the PACT allowed to provide 400,000 IDPs with NFIs kits and 500 stakeholders from municipalities and local authorities with capacity-building sessions management.
- In addition, discussions with the World Bank and other key development partners continued to i) strengthen policy dialogue around the challenges of IDP socioeconomic inclusion in the context of accelerated urbanization of secondary cities, ii) support the inclusion of IDPs in within the frame of the World Bank operations.
- Finally, after having held extensive consultations and working sessions with the Ministry of Urbanism, regional authorities and the mayors of six communes of the Centre-North region (Kaya, Kongoussi, Tougouri, Barsalogho, Bourzanga, Pissila), UN HABITAT and UNHCR have developed a joint project focusing on Housing, Land and Property (HLP) issues. This joint project will support municipalities in

the Centre-North region, notably through: (i) facilitating IDP's inclusion and resilience through securing their access to land; (ii) building urban planning and management capacities to prevent tensions between communities; (iii) supporting the integrated territorial approach around local authorities; (iv) improving environmental protection in the main towns of the communes.



Environment and Energy

- Environmental changes act as threat multiplier for conflict and instability as competition for scarce natural resources often lead to inter-communal tensions. Considering the correlation between climate change and forced displacement, UNHCR is committed to promoting and supporting the use of renewable energies in its response. In fact, to reduce impact on the environment and mitigate the protection risks linked to the collection of firewood, UNHCR and its partners trained women from IDP and host communities in the Center-North on the fabrication of clean cooking-stoves.
- In 2021, UNHCR environmental action also entailed the development of a project aiming at setting up local and sustainable domestic gas access mechanisms to the benefit of IDPs and hosts. Inspired by UNHCR successes in providing IDP families with domestic gas in Niger, this project has been designed to answer to environmental, energy as well as protection needs in Burkina Faso. Through the provision of domestic gas UNHCR will contribute to social cohesion and peaceful coexistence in areas where access firewood is a scarce resource as well as to the protection of those at risk of gender-based violence on their way to collect such firewood.

Special thanks to donors who have contributed directly to the Burkina Faso operation in 2021 (as of 31 December 2021)

United States of America | GAP Inc. | Industria de Diseño Texti S.A. (Inditex) | CERF | Japan | France | African Development Bank Group | Austria | UN Peacebuilding Fund | Sweden | Burkina Faso | Canada | European Union | World Food Program | Luxembourg | Education Cannot Wait | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | Private donors |

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

CONTACTS:

Melike Trigg, External Relations and Public Information Officer, trigg@unhcr.org

Bernadette Ippet, Associate External Relations and Reporting Officer, ippetlet@unhcr.org

Moussa Bougma, Communications and Public Information Associate, bougma@unhcr.org

Antoine Jean Thomas Elias, Associate External Relations Officer, elias@unhcr.org

LINKS:

[Regional operational portal](#)

[UNHCR Burkina portal](#)

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2021 at a glance

1 Million IDPs (CONASUR)



January

Visit of UNHCR Special Envoy,
Angelina Jolie



June

Visit of the IDP Protection
Expert Group



September

Refugees flee Goudoubo
Camp, again...



November

April



Relocation of 6,571 refugees
to Goudoubo Camp

August



10th UNHCR-Burkina Faso-
Mali Tripartite Commission
Meeting

October



Two Burkinabè citizens win
the Nansen Refugee Award
for Africa

December



1,5 Million IDPs (CONASUR)