

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

The security situation continues to be worrisome in Burkina Faso, as over the reporting period, state actors and authorities continued to be targeted by more complex attacks. Using Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), mortar, shells and rockets armed groups' activism compromised the few remaining safe roads used by UNHCR and its partners. This has contributed to reduce the humanitarian space for UNHCR and its partners as well as to increase the needs in terms of protection of civilians. To cope with this situation, UNHCR and its partners have strengthened their community engagement strategies to continue to stay and deliver.

The deterioration of the security situation, contributed to the stark increase in the number of IDPs reported throughout the country. Large scale displacements have taken place in the Center North, North and Sahel regions, with the presence of IDPs on new roads between Ouahigouya and Ouagadougou as well as Kaya and Ouagadougou. This starkly signals that armed groups continue to gain territorial control; with the control of major towns in the Center North, East, North and Sahel regions, including the town of Djibo under blocus since January 2022.

The deterioration of the security situation in the neighbouring countries has also led to numerous arrivals of asylum seekers to Burkina Faso. Nearly 100 asylum seekers have arrived in the Sahel region, from the region of Gao in Mali. The precarious security situation causes access issues, even though their food and shelter needs are pressing. In addition, some 2,000 Nigerien asylum-seekers have also been reported in the Sahel region. In both cases, UNHCR is working with the National Commission for Refugees (CONAREF) on finding solutions to provide them with urgent assistance, including psycho-social care, as well as to facilitate their registration and recognition as refugees on a prima facie basis. UNHCR continues to monitor the protection situation of refugees and IDPs in Djibo to provide them with appropriate assistance along with the CONAREF who will be responsible for registering the 3,000 asylum seekers settled there.

On 3 March, the President of the Transition, appointed Mr. Albert Ouédraogo as Prime Minister of the Transition Government and composed a Government of 25 Ministers. Some changes have occurred, such as the creation of a Ministry of Religious and Customary Affairs, and a Ministry of Women and Gender apart from the Ministry of National Solidarity and Humanitarian Action. UNHCR will continue to engage with its institutional counterparts to promote, uphold and protect refugees, internally displaced persons and persons at risk of statelessness, including through the search of durable solutions.

UNHCR latest out of camp and urban refugee interventions

As part of its efforts to restore refugees' personal security, self-sufficiency and dignity, UNHCR provided cash assistance to 354 families for semi-durable shelter (allocation of XOF 400,000/family) and provided 518 families with cash assistance for CRI kits (allocation of XOF 50,000/family). In Dori, UNHCR and its partners organized a training workshop on entrepreneurship and basic literacy, to strengthen the capacities of 40 women member of the cooperative "DJAM WELI", including 15 refugees, 15 IDPs and 10 women from the host community. In the Sahel and Hauts-Bassins region, UNHCR and its partners continued to support refugees' access to health care. In Dori, chef-lieu of the Sahel region, UNHCR and its partners organized a vaccination campaign against pneumonia, reaching 1,248 refugee and asylum seekers children aged between nine and 59 months. However, the major challenge remains the medical evacuations from Dori to Ouagadougou because of the increasing presence of armed groups on this axis. In the Hauts-Bassins region, UNHCR and its partners have continued to conduct home visits, provide psychological support, and organize educational talks to improve the health and well-being of urban refugees in Bobo-Dioulasso. UNHCR action has also focused on preventing acts and protect persons of concern against the risks of gender-based violence (GBV). UNHCR provided 1,958 school and dignity kits to local education authorities to support children education in Djibo. Last but not least, during the reporting period, UNHCR and its partners reached over 13,000 Malian refugees through food and cash distribution in Dori, Sahel region.



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

- Protection Monitoring (Project 21) activities implemented from March to April 2022 by UNHCR and its partners covered 119 communes in the nine most affected regions of the country. 60% of the covered communes are hard-to-reach areas where data collection and analysis had to be remotely conducted. A total of 7,017 people were identified as having survived human rights violations, including attacks on freedom and security, forced restriction of movement, attacks on physical or psychological integrity, property rights, as well as attacks on the right to life, psychological violence, including violations of children's rights and GBV. Amongst those 7,017 persons, 229 declared having survived GBV, 85% women and 11% children. The main perpetrators of rights violations (88%) remained by far members of armed groups. Following the identification of protection needs, 266 persons were assisted and received cash assistance (59%) or were referred to the appropriate care and services (41%).
- From March to April 2022, 1,187 people were identified as being part of mixed movements. This figure includes asylum seekers, people at risk of statelessness, migrants, as well as IDPs in cross-border movements, refugees, returnees and victim of trafficking, including minors. During the reporting period, 110 persons received psychosocial support, 149 asylum seekers and four unaccompanied minors were also referred to social action services. The main travel routes of outbound flows are the ones towards Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Mali, Senegal, Ghana and Togo. Incoming flows consist in cross-border movements from Mali, Niger, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and Ghana. An increasing number of cross-border movements of IDPs to neighboring countries, particularly Côte d'Ivoire has also been observed.
- In the framework of its collaboration with the CONAREF, UNHCR adopted its national strategy for the verification of refugees and asylum seekers in Burkina Faso. This led to the start of the verification operation on 25 April in Bobo Dioulasso, which covered 631 households of 1,813 individuals, including 1,652 refugees, 113 asylum seekers and 48 not of concern to UNHCR. The verification operation will continue in the North and Sahel regions.
- As part of its efforts to mitigate the risks and eradicate statelessness, UNHCR has carried out several activities through its partner, the Directorate General for the Modernisation of Civil Status (DGMEC). During the reporting period, 4,462 birth certificates were issued, 1,714 of which to IDPs and 2,748 to host communities. In addition, 700 certificates of nationality were issued to IDPs and host communities.
- UNHCR continues to support the Government in the deployment of its "iCivil" tool throughout the country, to digitalize the declaration process, the registration of facts and the production of civil status certificates, particularly birth certificates, in order to prevent, reduce and eradicate the risks of statelessness. iCivil is a civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system used in Burkina Faso since August 2015. These efforts resulted in the digitalization of 67,546 birth certificates via iCivil, in the East and North regions, during the reporting period. It sequentially allows the declaration, recording, and addition of civil status certificates in a central place. It is not needed to travel far to register a birth or to obtain an extract of a birth certificate late. In addition, from 9 to 10 March, 40 key actors and stakeholders including Secretary-Generals of municipalities, Heads of Civil Registry Services and members of the media benefited from capacity building on civil status and statelessness in Ouagadougou,
- Jointly 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. This messages successfully provided information to affected communities on several themes such as GBV; Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (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 behaviour change on specifics

thematic. Over 7,500 people connected to the platform and 36,000 messages were downloaded at the end of April. Amongst these messages, the ones related to social cohesion and documentation were the most downloaded.



Gender-Based Violence

- On 8 March, through the coordination of the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR), UNHCR and its UN sister agencies celebrated the International Women's Rights Day. Women provided testimonies on their resilience, extensive discussions were held on the themes of equality, sustainability, security, health and protection. Various messages were broadcast through theatrical plays and round table discussion. UNHCR seized this opportunity to award three female students – one refugee, one IDP, one member of the host community – for their excellent school performance in the Sahel region. In the Center North region, UNHCR recognized the merits of 10 women leaders involved in community based GBV prevention mechanisms.
- In the framework of mainstreaming GBV risk mitigation, UNHCR was invited to provide a presentation to both members of the Shelter cluster and the Housing, Land and Property (HLP) AoR. They were sensitized on their respective roles and responsibilities to jointly address the risks of GBV, while being introduced to the appropriate tools to integrate GBV Risk mitigation into Shelter and HLP programming as well as on the best practices to securely manage GBV incidents disclosure and referral.
- In order to build the capacity of its partners providing legal assistance to GBV survivors, UNHCR organized a three-day training on GBV core concepts and interviewing techniques to which nine legal assistants participated. A two-hour session on GBV core concepts, secure disclosure and referral was also provided to UNHCR partners' Protection Monitors.



Shelter and CRIs

- UNHCR continues to provide shelter assistance ranging from the provision of emergency shelter to semi-durable and durable shelter supports, combined with the distribution of CRIs throughout the country. These interventions aim at improving the living conditions, the physical safety, and the dignity of IDP as well as host communities. During the reporting period, a total of 10,927 Individuals have been reached through the distribution of 914 emergency shelters, construction of 232 semi durable houses and 56 eco-friendly durable shelters (Nubian Vault type built thanks to the generous support of the Kingdom of Belgium). UNHCR and its partners also achieved the distribution of 1,561 CRI kits, including 546 kits provided through cash-based intervention (CBI) and 1,015 kits in-kind.
- UNHCR continues to coordinate the shelter and CRIs response through its leadership role in the Shelter Cluster. In the 2022's Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Burkina Faso, the Shelter Cluster is targeting 438,680 persons (62,669 families) for adequate and immediate needs of shelter and CRIs. As of 30 April, 6,941 households received shelter support and 7,393 CRI kits were distributed by the Shelter Cluster. During the first quarter of 2022, UNHCR contributed to provide 38% of the overall number of shelters provided by all shelter actors and 53% of the overall number of CRI kits distributed throughout the country.



Education

- It is worth noting that, despite the worsening of the situation, as of 31 March, the number of closed educational infrastructures declined from 3,683 to 3,664, thanks to the relative lull observed in certain conflict-affected areas. However, 14,60% of educational structures are still closed, affecting 579,440 students including 275,908 girls and 303,532 boys.
- During the reporting period, 16 refugee students benefiting from the DAFI program received study grants via CBI for an amount of XOF 330,000/persons (approx. USD 540). The DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) scholarship programme offers qualified refugee and returnee students the possibility to earn an undergraduate degree in their country of asylum or home country.

- On 2 March, the joint project "Training refugee students in digital professions" implemented by UNHCR, Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) and Simplon, was launched. 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. This innovative project will enable 13 refugees, including three women, to follow a training course leading to a qualification in web development. They have also received a DAFI grant to facilitate their training.
- On 9 March, UNHCR organized a preliminary feedback workshop on the study "barriers to access to education for children in situations of forced displacement in the Central Sahel region - Burkina Faso". This workshop, held within the framework of the regional component of the multi-year resilience program (MYRP) for the central Sahel funded by Education Cannot Wait (ECW), brought together 35 participants ranging from the Ministry of National Education, UNICEF, and international organizations.



Health and COVID-19 Response

- As of 30 April, Burkina Faso has recorded 20,865 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 383 deaths and 20,471 recoveries. In total, more than 3,496 refugees and asylum seekers have fully completed a COVID-19 vaccination scheme since the national vaccination campaign began on 2 June 2021. This represents an achievement rate of 30.12% for all eligible PoCs. 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.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

- The search for durable solutions for refugees living in Burkina Faso remains a key challenge in the current regional security and socio-political context. In such a complex context, third-country resettlement remains an important international tool to protect the most vulnerable refugees. In April, the first case was recommended to a host country under Survivor of Violence/Torture and Legal and Physical Protection Needs categories.
- From 28 to 30 March, at the occasion of a high-level World Bank mission, led by the Director of Strategy and Operations for Western and Central Africa, UNHCR took part in several strategic meetings with the Sahel Alliance, to assess the humanitarian situation and discuss possible avenues of cooperation.
- From 11 to 15 April, the Ministry of Humanitarian action held a consultative workshop, for the preparation of the national strategy for the recovery of IDPs. Aligned with the World Bank and other UN sister agencies, UNHCR played a key role throughout the event to defend its protection and solutions vision in a context of the accelerated urbanization of IDP-hosting cities. UNHCR will continue to strongly advocate for the inclusive and holistic design and implementation of this national strategy.
- UNHCR maintains constant interactions with key development partners willing to engage in the search for durable solutions for IDPs and refugees. On 11 March a working session UNHCR held a working meeting with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on possible avenues of collaboration that could materialize in support the IDP registration process in Burkina Faso.
- Livelihood's activity monitoring in Bobo Dioulasso carried out by UNHCR' partner during the reporting period showed that Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA), composed of IDP, refugee and host women at risk of protection, are functioning very well. In addition to social cohesion, these loans allow them to strengthen and continue their Income Generating Activities (IGAs).



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Latest achievements of the UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and OCHA Joint Emergency Response Team (ERT)

With the support of OCHA, the ad-hoc national ERT established by UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF provided 49,500 persons with shelters and CRIs kits. UNHCR and its partners have been doing their best to adapt their responses to mutualize their capacities in an agile manner and reinforce joint rapid and coordinated interventions within the UN system. To date, UNHCR has contributed to joint efforts providing almost 98% of the overall number of beneficiaries reached by the ERT (48,900 persons) with direct assistance.

- In Burkina Faso, UNHCR works with 21 partners including the Government, UN sister agencies, development actors and implementing partners. UNHCR continues to fully play its leading and coordination role within the (i) Protection, (ii) Shelter/CRI and (iii) GSAT/CCCM Clusters.
- On 4 March 2022, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) released the 2022 HRP for Burkina Faso. The 2022 HRP targets three million persons whose needs have been estimated at 590 million USD. Humanitarian actors will have to do more with 17 million USD less than in 2021.
- In light of the increasing protection needs, increasing protection risks with limited access to PoCs for humanitarian actors and to basic social services, the Protection Cluster supported the first allocation of the Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa and protection actors' project submissions to ensure alignment and compliance with the strategic objectives of the Cluster. The Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa is a humanitarian funding for projects to be implemented by NGOs.
- The Shelter Cluster has started working with new partners to elaborate a local construction approach. One of these new partners, the International Centre for Terracotta Construction (CRAterre), works towards the recognition of the terracotta material in order to meet the challenges linked to the environment, cultural diversity and the fight against poverty. With the exponential growth of displacements, shelter needs are growing, and additional resources are urgently needed. At almost mid-year, due to resource constraints, needs were only covered at 10% for the shelter response and 7% for the CRIs response. Moreover, during the reporting period, the Cluster supported shelter and CRIs actors during the submission process for the first standard allocation of OCHA's Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa (RHFwCA), to ensure alignment and compliance with the strategic objectives of the Cluster.
- Under UNHCR's leadership, the CCCM/GSAT Cluster contracted new partnerships with two NGOs, namely World Vision & Tearfund. Subsequent to signature, the CCCM/GSAT Cluster held a three-days training workshop to the benefit of Tearfund agents, along with the Evangelical Church Development Office (ODE), a local organisation implementing the CCCM/GSAT activities in the Boucle du Mouhoun region.
- As an active member of the GBV AoR Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), UNHCR participated in a workshop aiming at defining the GBV accountability framework it plans to set in Burkina Faso. Structured around six priority areas, including the strengthening of decentralized coordination mechanisms, GBV risk mitigations measures and consideration of all 16 Interagency Minimum Standards for GBV in programming, this GBV accountability framework was further validated by the Humanitarian Country Team, along with a work plan and a list of key commitments adopted by all humanitarian actors involved.
- A presentation of the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) organisational capacity assessment process was offered to UNHCR implementing partners in Ouagadougou, as well as in the Centre North and North regions. This capacity assessment aims at providing adequate safeguards and appropriate actions related to SEA in accordance with the special provisions of the Secretary General's Bulletin and the minimum standards of the UN Protocol.

- UNHCR actively participated in the Community Engagement and Accountability Working Group (CEAWG) through the three-day retreat which was organized to take stock of the work accomplished by the group since its creation in 2020. This three-day retreat also allowed its participants to determine the tasks ahead for a more effective engagement with affected communities and collective accountability within the humanitarian response in Burkina Faso. CEAWG's Terms of Reference (ToRs) were reviewed, a collective and harmonized toolkit was produced to better integrate accountability into the humanitarian response and a work plan was developed for the drafting of a strategy note on "collective accountability in the humanitarian response in Burkina Faso" that would further be submitted to the HCT.
- In light of the current situation in Djibo, which is reportedly under the siege of armed groups, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and OCHA are working together to overcome accessibility issues and continue to support trapped civilians including IDPs and refugees. A rotation system is being put in place to ensure the UN stay and deliver in Djibo.
- As part of the regional "Education Cannot Wait" (ECW) consortium, UNHCR, UNICEF and NRC organized a regional "Sahel education in emergencies advocacy workshop" in Dakar from 31 March to 1 April. This workshop resulted in defining and drafting documents that will support UNHCR, UNICEF and NRC advocacy efforts for education in the context of Burkina Faso's displacement crisis.



PUBLIC INFORMATION

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Best tweet of **March!**

Meilleur Tweet a obtenu 2 531 impressions

Des jeunes réfugiés formés aux métiers du numérique, une initiative conjointe du [@UNHCR_BF](#) et [@auf_org](#), en partenariat avec [@simplonco](#). Ce projet innovant leur ouvre des opportunités sur le marché de l'emploi grâce à l'usage maîtrisé des technologies actuelles.

[@UNHCRWestAfrica](#)
pic.twitter.com/twOwFDa3ch



← 1 ↻ 12 ❤️ 34

Best tweet of **April!**

Meilleur Tweet a obtenu 2 646 impressions

Le HCR a distribué 360 foyers améliorés aux familles déplacées sur deux sites de Kaya afin de réduire les coupes du bois de chauffe et les tensions sociales entre communautés déplacées et hôtes

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pic.twitter.com/mltBh2UvdG

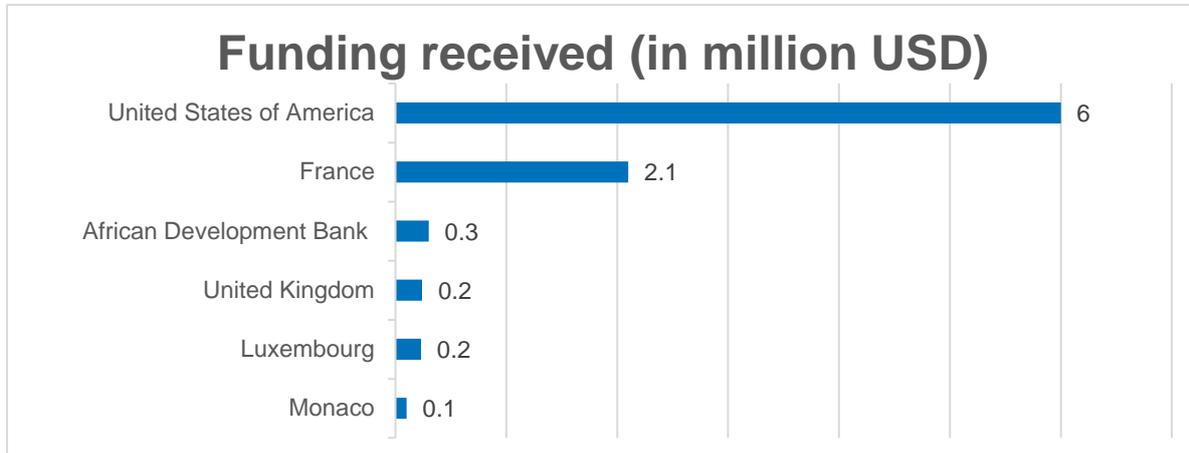


↻ 14 ❤️ 38



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

As of **10 May 2022**, the total recorded contributions for the operation amount to **15.8M USD**. 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

Norway | Private donors

Thanks to other donors of unearmarked or broadly earmarked funds

Sweden (95.2 million) | Norway (72.5 million) | Netherlands (37.2 million) | Denmark (35.6 million) | Germany (27.6 million) | Private donors Spain (19.9) | France (18.5) | Switzerland (18.4 million) | Private donors Japan (14.9) | Belgium (11.9 million) | Ireland (11.8 million) | Italy (10 million) | Algeria | Armenia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | Peru | Philippines | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors.

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 Ellias, Associate External Relations Officer – ellias@unhcr.org