

BURKINA FASO

1 March – 30 April 2023

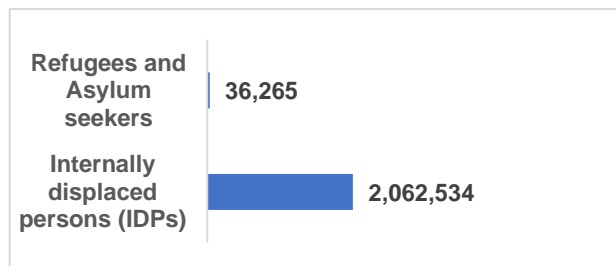
The humanitarian situation is concerning. As of 31 March 2023, according to the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR), **2,062,534 persons are internally displaced**, over 3% increase in one month only. Additionally, as of the same date, the country is hosting **36,265 refugees and asylum seekers**, according to UNHCR.

In response to this humanitarian crisis, UNHCR is providing protection and assistance to forcibly displaced and stateless persons, including the provision of emergency shelter, civil documentation, and other basic needs. However, UNHCR faces challenges in accessing affected populations due to ongoing insecurity and limited resources.

The **Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2023** was released on 30 March 2023. With a budget of USD 877 million, it aims to assist 3.1 million people in acute and urgent need. The humanitarian needs addressed in the plan range from urgent life-saving assistance, to protection, support for improved access to basic social services, resilience, post-crisis recovery, as well as durable solutions.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Burkina Faso



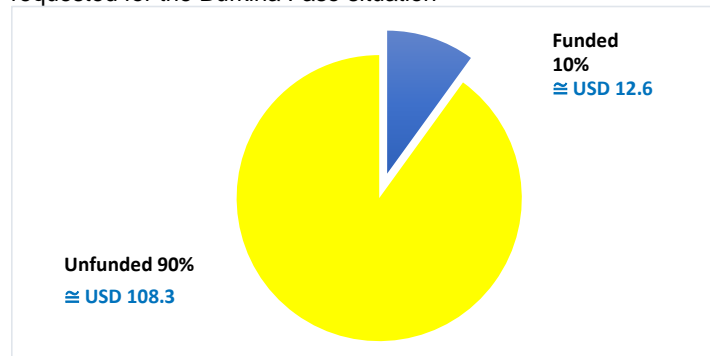
* IDPs figure refers to the total number of IDPs across the country registered as of 31 March 2023 by the CONASUR. Increase of 3% compared to 28 February 2023.

** Registered refugees and asylum seekers include 55% of women and 45% of men living in the North & Boucle du Mouhoun, Sahel, Centre & Plateau Central, Hauts-Bassins & Centre-West regions.

FUNDING (AS OF 27 APRIL 2023)

USD 120.9 million

requested for the Burkina Faso situation



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 169

111 National Staff

58 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



Beneficiary of the Matourkou agricultural project Bobo-Dioulasso, Hauts-Bassins region. © UNHCRBKF



Working with Partners

- To enhance the protection of forcibly displaced and stateless persons and promote their inclusion in national programs, UNHCR, through its Multi-Year Multi-Partners (MYMP) strategy 2022-2025, collaborates with 19 partners, including the Government, UN agencies, development actors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), 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.
- On 30 March 2023, the [Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\) 2023](#) for Burkina Faso was published. The plan highlights a range of needs, from urgent life-saving assistance, to protection, support for improved access to basic social services, resilience, post-crisis recovery, as well as durable solutions. A budget of USD 877 million has been allocated to address the growing needs through priority interventions in 2023. Specifically, the HRP 2023 targets 3.1 million people in acute and urgent need across 127 communes, particularly those living in hard-to-reach areas, in accordance with the principle of leaving no one behind principle. The HRP 2023 complements the national humanitarian response.
- On 28 March 2023, the protection cluster released the [Protection Analysis Update \(PAU\)](#) for the second half of 2022. The report revealed significant political and security instability, leading to a surge in security incidents and significant population displacement. The PAU emphasized the challenges faced by vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly, and disabled persons in accessing essential resources. The Protection Cluster identified the most pressing protection risks, including attacks on civilians and vital infrastructure, the presence of mines and other improvised explosive devices, exacerbation of forced displacement, increased risks of child protection, gender-based violence (GBV), and restrictions on access to housing, land, and property. The report aims to inspire action from the State, development actors, and humanitarian organizations to strengthen and adapt mitigation measures to alleviate the adverse effects of these risks.
- As part of the process of supporting the government's national ownership of the [Kampala Convention](#), CONASUR organized a workshop in March, with the support of UNHCR, to present the first version of the draft law and the legal diagnostic report. These documents were presented to all stakeholders through the inter-ministerial committee set up in February to monitor the process. It is now expected that, following a review of the document by all stakeholders, the draft law will be officially submitted to the Government for validation, and then to the transitional legislative assembly for adoption.
- The data and analysis from Project 21 (protection monitoring) continue to inform coordination, planning and response and strengthen evidence-based advocacy. Project 21 presented the key protection data collected during the first quarter of 2023 and successfully contributed to the core functions of the Protection Cluster. Four main protection risks affecting Burkina Faso from January to March 2023 were identified: (i) theft, extortion, forced eviction or destruction of personal property; (ii) abduction, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary or unlawful arrest and/or detention; (iii) attacks on civilians and other unlawful killings, and attacks on civilian property; (iv) GBV, and child, early or forced marriage. The data generated by Project 21 enabled the Protection Cluster to identify its

advocacy priorities for the second quarter. These priorities include continuing the analysis of protection consequences of food insecurity with the Food Security Cluster and the World Food Program.

- In March 2023, the Shelter Cluster in Burkina Faso completed its annual performance evaluation process with 17 partners, regional coordination focal points, and the national coordination team. The evaluation identified two key coordination functions requiring special attention: performance monitoring and evaluation, building national capacity and mobilizing more resources to enhance the shelter response. An action plan was established. Additionally, in order to mitigate protection risks stemming from evidence of shelter gaps, the Shelter Cluster organized a capacity-building workshop for 40 partner staff members, aimed at enhancing the participants' knowledge of reporting tools, activities, and reviewing the tools used to assess shelter vulnerability.
- During the review period, the CCCM/GSAT cluster collaborated with its operational partners and SP/CONASUR to monitor IDP sites in Burkina Faso. The purpose of this monitoring was to update sectoral information on the humanitarian response, needs and gaps in the sites. The North region was the first region to be visited, and capacity building sessions were also organised for 24 members of the site management teams in this region. The activity will continue in the Centre-North, Sahel and Boucle du Mouhoun regions.

Main Activities



Protection

- UNHCR plays a crucial role in the emergency and protection response, carrying out important activities such as registration, documentation, protection monitoring (P21), responding to protection cases and search for durable solutions. The recent political and security measures taken on 9 April by the transitional authorities in Burkina Faso, namely the “general mobilization and warning”, have significant implications for the protection of vulnerable populations in the country. While the mobilization of all citizens is considered necessary by many to combat the current crisis, the potential consequences of such a directive must be carefully considered. One of the main concerns is that the call to mobilize resources and people could disproportionately affect already vulnerable groups, including women, children, and the elderly. In addition to protecting the most vulnerable, durable solutions must involve civil society, local communities and even development actors to be effective in promoting lasting peace and stability.
- Due to the growing number of refugees in Ouagadougou, the National Commission for Refugees (CONAREF), has established a Refugee Steering Committee, as well as two sectoral committees - the Women's Committee and the Youth Committee – with the support of UNHCR. The aim is to enhance community governance and increase women's and youth's participation in decision-making. The Association of Burkina Faso Refugees (ARBF) will continue to operate as a refugee association. With CONAREF's assistance, the steering committee will now oversee refugees' daily affairs.
- UNHCR's Protection Monitoring (Project 21) continues to contribute to identifying protection needs and informing the planification of the humanitarian community's multi-sectoral responses in Burkina Faso. During the period under review, a total of 187 protection

incidents resulting from the precarious security and protection environment, affecting 3,308 victims and survivors within both displaced and host communities, were collected, and documented. Through its protection response, UNHCR provided 197 protection response interventions, including 160 through referrals, four through direct assistance, and 33 with psychosocial support. Two training sessions were held for NGO monitors and volunteers from CSO partners in the implementation of Project 21 in the East and the Centre-East regions between 13 and 16 March. These trainings, with 25 professional monitors and volunteers respectively, presented the revised methodology of Project 21, revised household, and key informant questionnaires, and strengthened the data collection capacity of the teams deployed in the field.

- During the period under review, a total of 3,848 persons were identified in mixed movements, of which 1,026 were asylum seekers and 2,280 IDPs. The primary countries of destination for IDPs in cross-border movements were Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Ghana, Senegal, Morocco, Guinea, Benin, Mauritania, and Nigeria. As part of its border monitoring activities, UNHCR, through its partner, has strengthened the capacities of 12 state officials responsible for the border management in the Sahel region. This initiative prioritizes the principle of non-refoulement and access to territory.
- Thanks to UNHCR's technical and financial support, the Government of Burkina Faso has been able to combat statelessness effectively. 329 government officials and key actors, including 44 women, from various regions such as North, East, Centre-East, South-West, Hauts-Bassins, Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-North and Cascades have been trained to improve their capacities in the procedures governing the issuance of identity documents and civil status certificates. UNHCR has also provided technical and financial support to the Government to improve the legal environment. This includes the preparation of the first draft of a decree on procedures for determining stateless status and a Guide to its application, as well as a preliminary draft law on dynamic civil status that involves digitalizing the system and recording civil status events in emergency situations. Both texts have been validated by the Government and are awaiting adoption by the Transitional Legislative Assembly.



Gender based violence

- In collaboration with its partners, UNHCR has continued to implement activities aimed at preventing, mitigating, and responding to gender-based violence (GBV). GBV mobile teams are operational and there are a total of 28 community-led safe spaces in place, providing women and girls information about available services and on issues relating to women's rights, health in safety and confidentiality in 11 out of the 13 regions. UNHCR has also continued to strengthen GBV prevention by promoting of communication for behavioural change and community protection mechanisms, as well as building its partners' capacities on PSEA, GBV core concepts, prevention, risk mitigation and response. In particular, a 3-day workshop on the protection of LGBTQ+ in forced displacement was organised to enhance the knowledge and skills of UNHCR and partners' staff to assess international protection needs and design adequate response strategies for LGBTQ+ forcibly displaced and stateless persons in Burkina Faso.



Education

- The Orange Foundation has donated connectivity kits to UNHCR in Burkina Faso to improve the education of over 10,000 forcibly displaced children. The initiative involves building new classrooms, providing computer equipment and solar radios, and training teachers in digital skills, emergency education, child protection, and psychosocial support. This initiative is in line with UNHCR's education strategy in emergency situations, which aims to ensure access to quality education for displaced children and youth, as well as to enhance the capacities of teachers and educational facilities. Burkina Faso is facing a worsening education crisis due to persistent insecurity, which has affected over a million children and impacted over 6,000 schools.
- UNHCR is continuing its efforts to provide refugees in Burkina Faso with access to quality higher education, which will enable them to compete in the job market. During the review period, UNHCR collaborated with the 2iE Higher Institute to facilitate refugee students' applications for a scholarship to participate in the "Inclusive Training of Engineering Leaders and Entrepreneurs in Africa (FILE-IN-AFRICA)" program, which is funded by the Mastercard Foundation. This scholarship program, implemented by 2iE, aims to provide training in engineering, renewable energy, maintenance of water installations, sanitation, infrastructure management and service to students from vulnerable population groups, including refugees.



Health, Nutrition

- Providing access to health care for refugees and asylum seekers is a priority for UNHCR. Its strategy involves giving access to mutual insurance that covers 100% of primary healthcare offered in public health facilities. During the review period, more than 300 individuals with special needs were identified and enrolled in mutual health insurance.



Shelter and CRIs

- UNHCR and its partners continue to provide shelter and CRIs assistance to improve the living conditions and the dignity of IDPs and refugees, while also reducing protection risks. UNHCR pursued its efforts to establish, improve and maintain shelter and infrastructure, transitioning from emergency shelters to more durable shelter solutions whenever possible. During the review period, UNHCR provided 783 shelters including 736 emergency shelter and 47 semi-permanent houses for 4,678 people. Additionally, 7,560 vulnerable people in need of CRIs benefited 1,200 CRIs through in-kind distribution.



Cash based intervention

- During the review period, UNHCR and its partners have been actively advocating for the lifting of the suspension on cash modalities in the Sahel, Centre-North, and East regions. The suspension was imposed by the Governors of these regions due to concerns around incorrect targeting, duplicated lists, poor communication, conflicts, and the risk of dependence. This decision jeopardized the ability of humanitarian organizations to provide

essential aid to those in need, particularly in hard-to-reach areas. This increased the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse, and the vulnerability of women and girls who may be forced to resort to harmful coping mechanisms to meet their basic needs and those of their families (such as selling or exchanging sex, forced marriage, etc.). UNHCR, along with other UN agencies and other CBI actors, continued to advocate for the use of cash modalities, highlighting their importance in providing beneficiaries with autonomy and flexibility to prioritize their own needs, supporting local economies, and being more cost-effective than traditional in-kind assistance. UNHCR and its partners recognized the importance of addressing the concerns underlying the suspension to ensure that essential aid reaches those in need.

- Despite this, CBI continue where possible. During the period under review, 23 refugee students benefiting from the **DAFI** scholarship in Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso were assisted with scholarship amounting a total of XOF 9.3 million (almost USD15,300). In addition, in Ouahigouya, North region, 10 vulnerable refugee women received XOF 3 million (almost USD 5,000) for livelihood activities.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR and its partners are continuing to support refugees in Burkina Faso through income-generating activities (IGAs) and awareness-raising activities. The Matourkou agricultural project in Bobo-Dioulasso, located in the Hauts-Bassins region, has established a management committee for the market garden site. This committee will oversee the management of equipment, materials, water resources and all actions necessary for the smooth running of the project. Additionally, crops such as sorrel are maturing, and harvesting has started. In the Sahel region, livelihood initiatives have been implemented to support refugees and IDPs. These initiatives include the development of horticultural production, where the construction of a large diameter well underway to enhance the water supply to the Wendou vegetable garden. The completion of this project is anticipated in 2023. Furthermore, refugees selected for poultry activities received capacity building to start building their chicken coops.
- In the Centre-North region, the Kouim-Kouli connectivity centre, with the support of UNHCR, has strengthened the capacities of 18 IDPs and 15 members of the host community. Coaching and monitoring activities have also been implemented to strengthen the beneficiaries' production techniques and support their livelihoods in agriculture, livestock, and other areas. These efforts have enabled the production units in Kaya and Boulsa to start producing attiéké (a local couscous made from casava). Finally, 20 young entrepreneurs, including 12 IDPs and 8 members of the host community, have been trained in entrepreneurial marketing to facilitate their access to credit and financial services.
- On 8 March, UNHCR reaffirmed its commitment to women's empowerment through an exhibition in Kaya. The women showcased their products, including improved stoves, eco-friendly charcoal, and beauty products, and engaged in a dialogue with provincial authorities and highlighted the challenges they face, such as a lack of space to sell their products and the high cost of raw materials. UNHCR pledged to continue supporting these women by providing technical assistance, strengthening their capacities, and subsidizing

raw materials. The exhibition emphasized the importance of supporting women's economic activities in the context of displacement.

- As part of its efforts to promote economic and financial inclusion for forcibly displaced and stateless persons, UNHCR and its partner organized consultations with financial service providers, farmers' associations, and regional chambers of agriculture in the East, North and Hauts-Bassins regions. These consultations have already yielded results, with UNHCR obtaining 20 hectares of land from the East region Chamber of Agriculture for the benefit of IDPs, and two poultry production units from the Hauts-Bassins region Chamber of Agriculture for the benefit of IDPs and refugees in the region. Additionally, farmer associations in the Hauts-Bassins region expressed their willingness to hire forcibly displaced individuals as agricultural workers on their farms. Across all three regions, 18 microfinance institutions have committed to offering their products and services without condition to forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

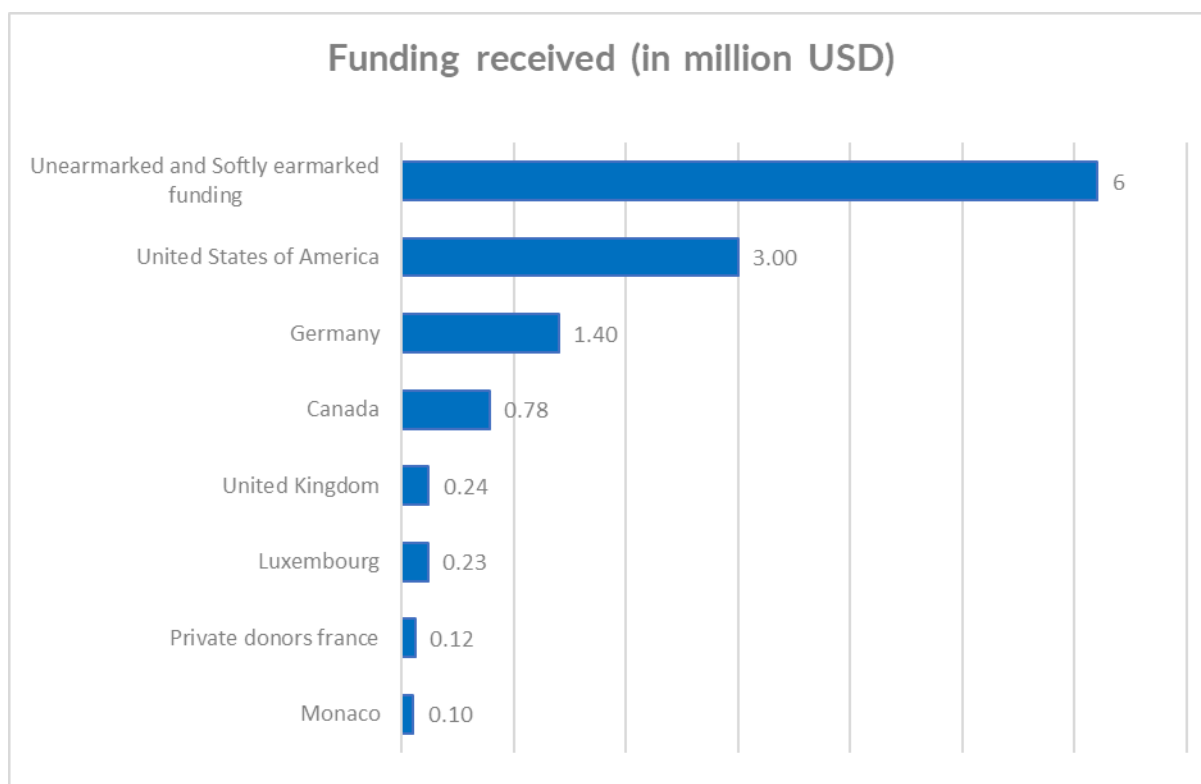
Durable Solutions

- 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. Within the period under review, profiling of refugee households started in Ouagadougou, Ouahigouya and Dori, to identify suitable cases for resettlement consideration. The quota for the United States in the year 2023 is 40 individuals.
- UNHCR continues to actively pursue strategic collaboration with key development partners, especially the World Bank, and other UN agencies, to promote and advocate for public policies and an investment agenda that fully include protection and durable solutions as core priorities. It is in this perspective that UNHCR and its partners have remained mobilized so far to support the Government in the National Recovery Strategy for IDPs and Host Communities' preparation process. This initiative aims to develop guidelines for the search for solutions including returns to the localities of origin, local integration, or the relocation of displaced persons. The strategy is based on the following axes: (1) improving access to basic social services and promoting a decent living environment in the areas of return, integration, and resettlement; (2) revitalising the local economy and empowering the affected populations, in particular young people and women; (3) preventing community conflicts and consolidating peace; (4) steering the strategy. Throughout the period under review, several workshops were organized to finalize the Action Plan of the Strategy, which is a comprehensive list of activities, indicators and targets being planned to achieve the objectives of the Strategy. UNHCR has made inputs to the Action Plan in the areas of shelter, education and Housing, Land and Property.

As part of the efforts to secure and support access to land for IDPs, UNHCR partner Observatoire National du Foncier (ONF), held a training workshop in Dedougougou, Boucle du Mouhoun region, on 14 and 15 March for 35 local authorities including mayors and landowners. The aim of this workshop was to equip these authorities with the necessary knowledge and tools to effectively integrate IDPs into their displacement environment.

Financial Information

As of 27 April 2023, nearly halfway through the year, UNHCR Burkina Faso’s Operation has received only approximately USD 12.6 million, which represents 10% of the required funding. The remaining 90% is still unfunded, and the 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.

External / Donor Relations

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