

Burkina Faso

1 November to 31 December 2020

According to the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR), as of 31 December 2020, there are **1,074,993 internally displaced persons (IDPs)** – almost double the number from last December 2019.

The Presidential and legislative elections took place on 22 November and saw the re-election of President Christian Roch Kabore. The inauguration took place on 28 December in Ouagadougou.

With the support of national authorities to reinforce the security in and around the Goudoubo camp and of partners for the rehabilitation of infrastructures, UNHCR helped close to **5,000 refugees to return to the camp.**

KEY INDICATORS

57,000

documents, including 20,000 **birth certificates** and 37,000 **national identity cards**, provided to IDP and host communities

7,721

Emergency shelters provided to IDPs

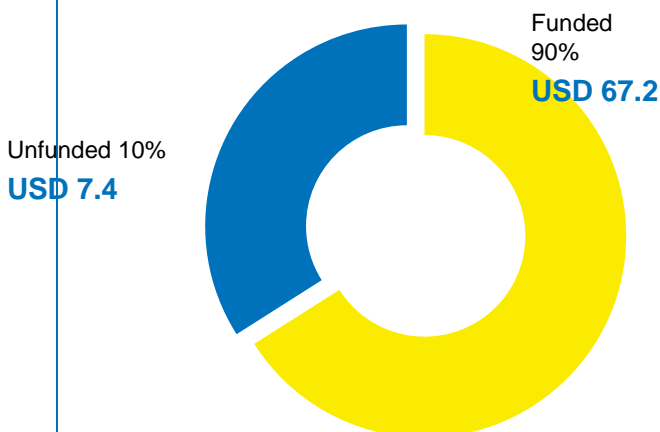
USD 100,000

Worth of **material and trainings**, to support the national authorities of the Sahel region to **facilitate the electronic registration of new births** through “iCivil”.

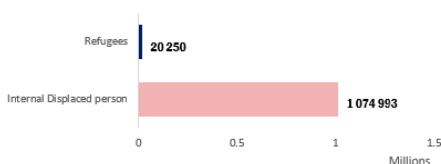
FUNDING (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2020)

USD 74.7M

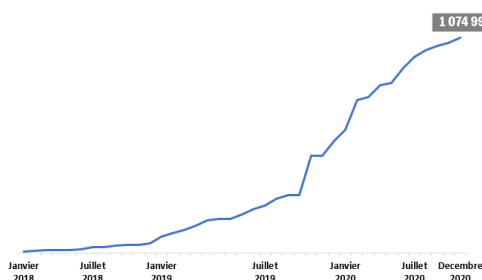
requested for the Burkina Faso Operation



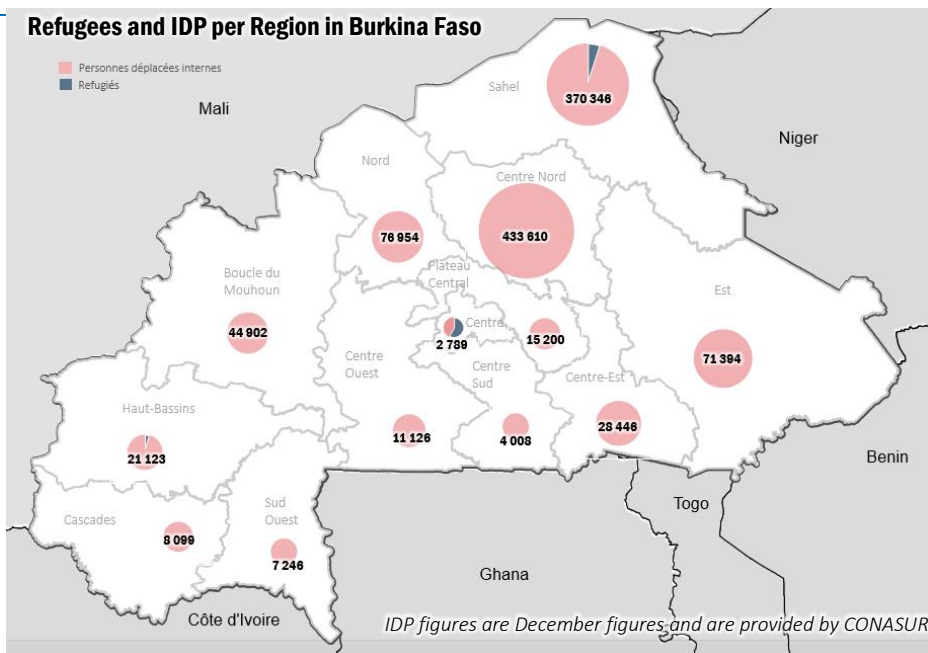
IDP vs Refugees in Burkina Faso



IDP trends since January 2018 in Burkina Faso



Refugees and IDP per Region in Burkina Faso



Operational Context

The security situation in Burkina Faso remains volatile, with continued attacks targeting the Forces of Defense and Security (FDS) and civilians, particularly those suspected of collaborating with the FDS. A variety of security incidents affected the regions of the Boucle du Mouhoun, the Cascades, the Centre-North, the East and the Sahel and an upsurge in criminality has been observed in Ouagadougou during the reporting period.

According to the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR), as of 31 December 2020, 1,074,993 individuals, including a majority of children (54%) and women (47%), have fled their homes seeking safety – almost double the number from December 2019. As of 31 December 2020, there were 20,284 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from Mali, registered and currently residing in the Sahel region.

The Presidential and legislative elections took place on 22 November in Burkina Faso. The current President, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, was reelected with 57.87% of the votes. The official inauguration ceremony of President re-elects, took place in Ouagadougou on 28 December 2020, with a limited number of guests attending due to restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. Several Statespersons from the region and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, were present.

Relocation of refugees to Goudoubo camp

In 2020, the refugees and asylum-seekers living in Burkina Faso have also been impacted by violence. The majority were living in two camps, Mentao and Goudoubo, near the border with Mali. Following a series of attacks and ultimatums by armed groups, over **9,000** refugees left **Goudoubo camp**, with some 5,000 opting to return home to Mali where UNHCR assisted them on arrival, while the rest settled in the nearby town of Dori, alongside IDPs.

On several occasions, refugees had requested to be allowed **to return to the camp**, a place they considered “home” since they first settled there 2012.

National authorities have reinforced security in and around the camp, and UNHCR and partners, including the National Commission for Refugees (CONAREF), built and rehabilitated 1,500 shelters, and infrastructures, such as schools and health facilities. UNHCR also worked towards the return of livelihoods and, so far, **500 vulnerable refugee families have received support to rebuild their livestock and start farming again.**

UNHCR and partners continued sensitization campaigns in the camp about preventative measures. Pieces of soap and hand washing devices were provided during the relocation exercise in Goudoubo and more hand-washing facilities are being constructed in different locations of the camp to reinforce the respect of preventative measures and prevent the spread of the virus.



UNHCR and its partner ensuring the unloading of the truck containing the personal belongings of the Malian refugees during the relocation to the Goudoubo refugee camp. ©UNHCR

Main achievements



PROTECTION

- UNHCR and partners continue their efforts to strengthen protection monitoring in order to identify and respond to the needs of the displaced populations, including women at risk, children, people living with disability and the elderly. Those most vulnerable were provided with cash and were referred to pertinent institutions and organizations for follow up. Following the elections in Cote d'Ivoire, UNHCR continues to closely monitor any possible cross-border movements. So far, there have been no arrivals of Ivorian citizens.
- In the context of the global #ibelong campaign to eradicate statelessness by 2024, UNHCR in Burkina Faso has strengthened efforts to mitigate the risk of statelessness. In collaboration with the General Directorate on the Modernisation of the Civil Status, UNHCR has supported the authorities of the Sahel with close to 100,000 USD (54 million XOF) worth of material (including computers, tablets and smart phones) as well as trainings to facilitate the electronic registration of new births with a new system called "iCivil". UNHCR facilitated access to documentation for IDPs and host communities through the provision of 20,000 birth certificates and 37,000 national identity cards in the regions of Sahel, Centre-North and North during the reporting period, bringing the total number of documents provided to IDPs and host community to 185,450 between March and December 2020.
- UNHCR is also sustaining its coordination and sensitization efforts to address Gender Based Violence (GBV) more effectively and comprehensively in Burkina Faso, with the objectives of GBV institutionalization and mainstreaming. Awareness and sensitization campaigns on social cohesion, forced marriages, denial of resources and services available for survivors of SGBV benefitted over 930 people in several localities in the regions of the Center-North and the Boucle du Mouhoun. Mobile health clinics have expanded their reach and intensified activities and during the reporting period. In the Sahel and Centre-North regions, UNHCR's partners, the Cooperation and Support Initiatives for Humanitarian and Development Actions (ICAHN) mobile teams, provided SGBV services in IDP sites and in locations that are difficult to access.
- With generous funding from *Safe from the Start* (PRM), the GBV Safety Audit project began in late November in partnership with NaZan Consulting. The project aims to identify the context-based specific risk factors and vulnerabilities that expose women, girls, men and boys to GBV in the three priority regions of Nord, Centre Nord and Sahel, including during the provision of protection and assistance

"I didn't realize the importance of the ID card. Today, I am happy to have a Burkinabe national identity card. From now on, I won't have to worry about going to see my parents in Ivory Coast. Thank you to UNHCR and its partners".

An internally displaced woman, Kaya, Centre-North, Burkina Faso



©UNHCR, M. Bougma.

services. It also aims to evaluate the existing institutional and community-based prevention, mitigation and response interventions. UNHCR worked with the partner on the elaboration of the data collection methodology and tools, adapted in conformity with the upcoming global GBV Safety Audit Tools, to be piloted in Burkina Faso with the active support of DIP and the Regional Bureau.

- Together with its partners, including INTERSOS, CREDO and ICAHD, UNHCR joined the 16 Days of Activism Campaign against GBV from November 25 to December 10, with a specific focus on forced and early marriage and the risks of GBV associated with precarious employment in the informal sector. A total of 241 campaign activities throughout the country have reached around 18,117 PoC and brought together Government representatives, UN Agencies and NGO partners, women's, faith-based, and community-based organizations. They included awareness raising events and focus group discussions, testimonies, vocational trainings, radio programs, theatre performances and board games, football matches, distributions of food and dignity kits, and community meals.
- In the regions of the Centre-North, North and Sahel, through its financial service provider, UNHCR has distributed some USD 37 (20,000 XOF) to over 6,400 women and girls of reproductive age for the purchase of dignity kits.



As part of the 16 days celebration, Sister Veronique Kansono presents the products made by young girl survivors of forced marriages that she helps through her organization in Kaya. ©UNHCR



COVID-19 RESPONSE

- As of 29 December 2020, there were 6,631 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Burkina Faso, including 84 deaths and 4,978 recoveries. The month of December have seen a sharp increase in contaminations. The number of COVID-19 cases has also increased amongst UNHCR staff, with seventeen still active. In light of the number of cases amongst UN staff, the UN County Team (UNCT) has decided to implement teleworking arrangements for a period of three weeks in the entire country, from 21 December 2020 to 11 January 2021, while ensuring continuity of services as applicable. All staff members were reminded of their responsibilities to respect the protective measures.
- UNHCR and its partners continue to support the Government in addressing the crisis and focusing its efforts on sensitization, prevention and response to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on PoCs in nine regions of the country. Distribution of material to facilitate the respect of preventive measures, including hand-washing devices, soap, hand sanitizers and masks, for COVID-19 and of awareness sessions continued across the country.
- UNHCR has supported the Minister of Health with the donation of a vehicle, motorbikes and sanitary material, for a total worth of almost USD 133,000 (71.6 million XOF). This comes in addition to the almost USD 2 million (980 million XOF) of items donated to regional authorities in the country in their



Symbolic delivery of equipment by the Representative of UNHCR to the National Federation of Road Transport Actors as part of the fight against COVID-19. ©UNHCR

efforts to fight the COVID-19 outbreak and the ongoing support for the rehabilitation and construction of health infrastructures in the Sahel.

- Similarly, UNHCR office distributed hydro-alcoholic gels and surgical masks worth close to USD 4,500 (2,475,000 XOF) to the National Federation of Road Transport Actors (FENAT). As part of the Asylum and Migration project, FENAT supports UNHCR in raising awareness against irregular migration and facilitates the referral of people falling under the UNHCR's mandate in mixed migration flows.



SHELTER AND CRIS

- UNHCR continues to strengthen the shelter response and the distribution of core relief items (CRIs) throughout the country. During the reporting period, 7,721 shelters were built in the Centre-North, North and Sahel regions.
- So far, in 2020, in Burkina Faso, more than 18,500 families were assisted in shelters and 6,225 families in essential household items by UNHCR and its partners - which constitutes more than 40% of the interventions planned by other partners in the shelter sector.



RHUs built in the village of Konkoundi, Centre-North region, benefiting 51 IDPs who occupied the village school. ©UNHCR



EDUCATION

- As part of its efforts to enhance distance learning through the project funded by Education Cannot Wait, some 1,800 radios have been distributed to students of the host and refugee communities in Bobo Dioulasso, Dori and Ouagadougou. The radios come with a mini solar plate, to facilitate recharging even in areas without access to electricity, and with lamps in case the students have to study at night.



A refugee student from Ouagadougou doing his homework at night with his mother. ©UNHCR



ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

In order to promote the use of clean energy and peaceful coexistence and to reduce the risks of SGBV that women face when collecting firewood, almost 2,700 women from the IDP and host communities received eco-friendly cooking stoves. In addition, 116 women from IDP and host communities, were trained and built 800 improved cooking stoves. These stoves consume less energy, thus reducing the burden on the environment. Each of the 11 groups of women benefited



Displaced women and host communities in Kaya, Center-North are making ecological terracotta stoves. ©UNHCR

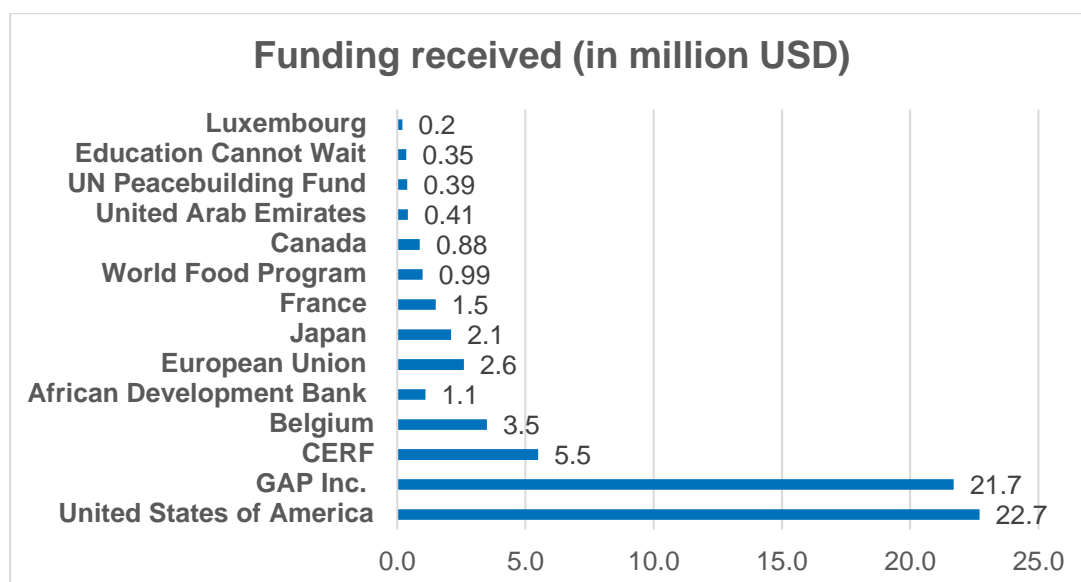
from around USD 470 (250,000 XOF) deposited in their savings account to start income generating activities and strengthen their self-reliance.

Working in partnership

- In Burkina Faso, the Refugee Agency works with a network of 16 partners, including the Government of Burkina Faso, UN sister agencies, International and National NGOs, and development actors.
- Through the support of the UN Peacebuilding Funds, UNHCR is working in close cooperation with UN sister agencies on two peacebuilding and peaceful coexistence projects. In December, the Peace Building Support Office has accepted the joint proposal submitted by UNFPA and UNHCR for a budget of USD 2.5 million for a 24 months project aiming at strengthening social cohesion in the Centre-North region.
- With UNHCR's technical and financial support, the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs and Cooperation held a workshop to discuss a draft law on a statelessness determination procedure, including the appointment of the National Commission for Refugees (CONAREF) as the responsible entity for this procedure. The draft law is planned to be adopted in 2021 and will allow the Government to have a unique structure for the determination of refugee status and statelessness.
- To boost efforts in community-based PSEA/SH programming in Burkina Faso, a country-wide PSEA/SH Focal Point Network has been established, while at the interagency level, to boost its leadership and coordination efforts as current IASC PSEA/SH Champion, UNHCR offered the Resident Coordinator's Office a support in inter-agency coordination until the arrival of a more dedicated staff at RCO.
- Together with the Government, IRC, UNFPA, UNICEF, and ICAHD international, UNHCR is an active member of the national Steering Group for the deployment of the Gender-based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) in Burkina Faso, and member of dedicated GBVIMS Task Forces.

Financial Information

So far in 2020, total recorded contributions for the operation amount to USD **67.2 M**. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked or broadly earmarked funds.



Special thanks to the major donors of regional funds in 2020

Germany (70.7 M) | United States of America (61.8 M) | United Kingdom (24.8 M) | Denmark (14.6 M) | Private donors Australia (12.8 M) | Canada (10.2 M) | Private donors USA (8.7 M) | Private donors Germany (6.8 M) | France (4.7 M) | Private donors Japan (4.5 M) | Spain (3.4 M) | Ireland (3.3 M) | Sweden (3 M) | Private donors United Kingdom (2.6 M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (2.5 M) | Japan (2.1 M) | Private donors Lebanon (2.1 M) /

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted funds in 2020

Sweden (88.2 M) | Private donors Spain (73.5 M) | United Kingdom (45.7 M) | Norway (41.4 M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (37.5 M) | Netherlands (36.1 M) | Denmark (34.6 M) | Private donors Japan (31.6 M) | Germany (25.9 M) | Japan (23.8 M) | Private donors Italy (17.6 M) | Switzerland (16.4 M) | Private donors Sweden (14.2 M) | France (14 M) | Private donors USA (10.8 M) | Italy (10.6 M)

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LINKS

Regional portal - UNHCR operation page - Twitter - Facebook

[Burkina Faso: Testimony of Ariette, victim of gender-based violence in Burkina Faso](#) (Storytelling)

[Burkina Faso: Testimony of Zougba, victim of gender-based violence in Burkina Faso](#) (Storytelling)

[New safety measures allow Malian refugees to return to camp in Burkina Faso](#) (Press release, 21 December 2020)

UNHCR's 70th Anniversary

On 14 December, UNHCR marked its 70th anniversary – an opportunity for UNHCR's Representative in Burkina Faso to lead the narrative on UNHCR's history, the dedication of colleagues and the unprecedented scale of displacement in the country, through a [video posted on twitter](#).

