

# Burkina Faso

1 January – 31 December 2022

To have **reliable** and **accurate data** on **asylum seekers** and **refugees** in Burkina Faso UNHCR, jointly with the National Committee for Refugees (CONAREF) have launched a verification exercise in Hauts-Bassins, North, Sahel and Centre regions. As of 31 December, **28,719** refugees and asylum seekers were verified, registered, and documented.

According to the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR), **1,882,391 persons** have fled their homes seeking safety as of the 31 December 2022, while **34,932 refugees** and asylum seekers have sought international protection in the country, and mainly in the Sahel region.

**UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP** and **OCHA** has set up in 2021, an **Emergency Response Teams (ERT)** to respond to new population movements in a more coordinated and timely manner. In 2022, there were **21 joint interventions** including shelter, Core Relief Items (CRIs) and general food distribution in **eight regions** to the benefit of **8,031** vulnerable households.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### Burkina Faso

Internally displaced persons	<b>1,882,391</b>
Refugees	<b>34,379</b>
Asylum seekers	<b>553</b>

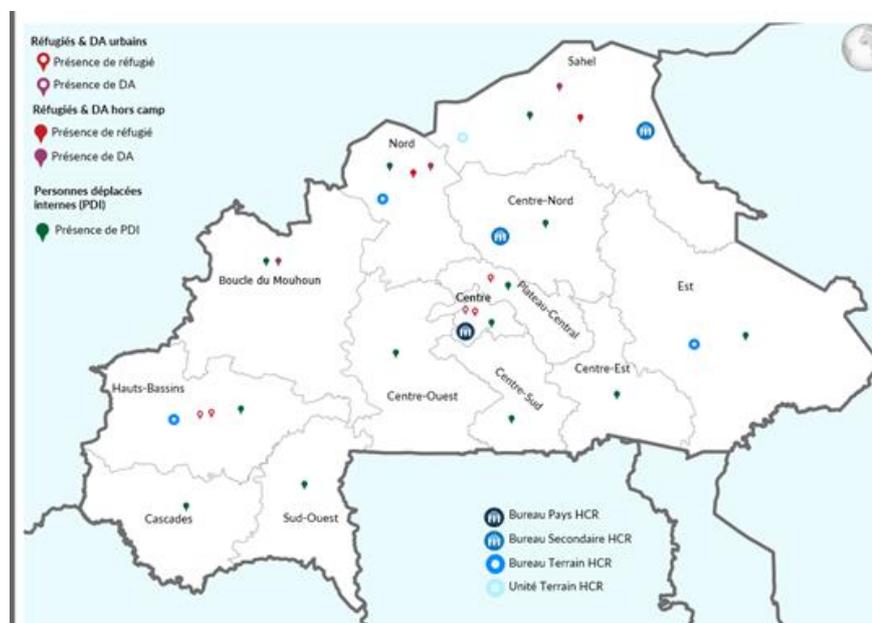
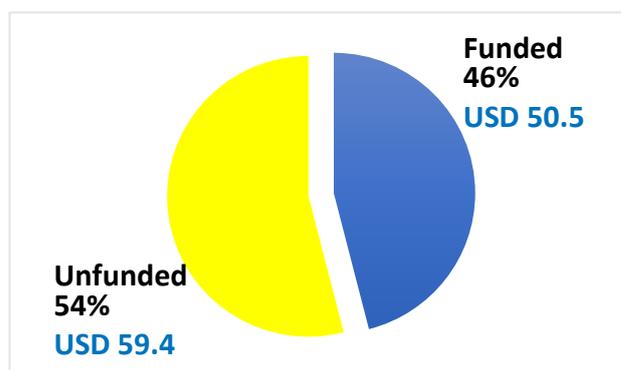
\* Internally displaced persons (IDPs) figure refers to IDPs across the country recorded as of 31 December 2022 by the CONASUR. Increase of 19.14% compared to 31 December 2021

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

\*\*\* Registered refugees and asylum seekers include 55% women 45% men and they live in the North, Sahel, Bobo Dioulasso and Ouagadougou

## FUNDING (AS OF 29 DECEMBER 2022)

# USD 109.9 M



## Presence of UNHCR

### 7 Offices:

1 Country Office: Ouagadougou

2 Sub Offices: Kaya & Dori

### 3 Field Offices:

Bobo Dioulasso  
Ouahigouya  
Fada-Ngourma

### 1 Field unit:

Djibo

### 174 staff:

115 National Staff  
59 International Staff



## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- In Burkina Faso, UNHCR works with **21 implementing partners**, amongst which the Government and its technical entities, UN sister agencies and development actors. The **Multi-Year Multi-Partners (MYMP) strategy 2022-2025**, brings together a full range of national and international stakeholders and aims to ensure a comprehensive response to forcibly displaced persons, persons at risk of statelessness by enhancing access to protection, promoting the inclusion of all affected persons in national programmes through the active engagement of various stakeholders.
- UNHCR **coordinates the response for all refugees** in Burkina Faso with the CONAREF and its other partners. In order to have **reliable and accurate data on asylum seekers and refugees** in Burkina Faso, CONAREF in collaboration with UNHCR and its partners, organized during the period under review, a **physical and biometric verification in Bobo-Dioulasso, Ouahigouya, Dori, Djibo and Ouagadougou**. As of 31 December 2022, the exercise is completed in four localities out of five planned resulting in **27,719** refugees and asylum seekers verified, registered, and documented, over 90% of the planned target.
- With regards to the response for IDPs, in line with the Humanitarian Reform and IASC mechanisms, **UNHCR leads the (i) Protection, (ii) Shelter/CRI and (iii) CCCM/GSAT (Gestion des Sites d'Accueil Temporaires) Clusters**. The Protection cluster ensures the central character of protection in all humanitarian actions and beyond, through coordination with national and regional humanitarian actors as well as with the other clusters. The Shelter cluster continues to strengthen the harmonization and coordination of the shelter response. Meanwhile, the CCCM/GSAT cluster continues to reinforce the government's coordination and management capacities on sites and camp-like settings through various tools. The three clusters have actively participated in the drafting of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) as well as the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) 2023 through the analysis of humanitarian needs and joint planning of activities.
- Given the **transversality nature of protection**, the protection cluster works to **inform and alert** all humanitarian actors on the **main protection incidents** which impact the lives of **civilians** and can aggravate their **vulnerabilities**. During the period under review, the protection cluster led rapid protection assessments, and produced protection analysis notes, including two information notes on the displacement of civilians for reasons of military interest (ZIM) and a note on the recruitment of Volunteers for the Fatherland (VDP).
- In response to the protection crisis affecting the Central Sahel, **UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC)** co-facilitators of the Regional Protection Working Group for West and Central Africa - set up **Project 21** in early 2020. As an inter-agency and multi-country ecosystem tool dedicated to improving the monitoring of the protection environment in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Chad, Project 21 consists of the implementation of harmonised protection data collection and analysis tools. The data

collected and analysed contributes to: (i) the development of inter-agency protection analyses; (ii) support to humanitarian programming and planning processes; (iii) the improvement of the protection response by the humanitarian community; (iv) support to inter-agency advocacy to raise awareness on the crisis of forced displacement. In line with the regional objectives of Project 21, the dynamic set up in Burkina Faso establishes the Protection Cluster as a real vehicle for transmitting inter-agency analyses and joint recommendations developed by DRC, UNHCR and its partners.

- 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)** within the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT).
- The **reduction in funding** has **negatively impacted the emergency response**, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and OCHA has set up in 2021, an **ERT** in order to respond to **new population movements** in a more **coordinated** and **timely** manner. During the period under review, as part of the ERT response, there were **21 joint interventions** including **shelter, CRIs and general food distribution** in **eight** regions of the country to the benefit of **8,031 vulnerable households** (more than 56,000 persons).

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS



### Protection

- Through its MYMP, UNHCR in Burkina Faso will continue to strengthen protection and opportunities for forcibly displaced persons, persons at risk of statelessness, to live in safety and dignity through the six following strategic priorities: **i) Strengthening and enforcement of the protective legal framework; ii) Consolidation of peace, security and social cohesion through the strengthening of community-based protection mechanisms; iii) Registration and documentation of IDPs, refugees and effective implementation of the national action plan to combat statelessness; iv) Access to quality basic social services; v) Self-sufficiency of forcibly displaced, persons at risk of statelessness and host communities, supporting local development and innovation; vi) Durable solutions for refugees and IDPs.** These priorities will support Burkina Faso's humanitarian, development and peace priorities as well as contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- UNHCR decisively contributes to the emergency and protection response, through a number of key activities such as registration, documentation, protection monitoring, and response to protection cases (incl. GBV). As of 31 December 2022, thanks to UNHCR support, CONASUR registered **1,882,391 IDPs** – an increase of 19.14% compared to 31 December 2021. Burkina Faso also continued to generously host **34,932 refugees and asylum seekers**, according to the statistic collected by UNHCR as of 31 December 2022.
- In 2022, in the framework of the Project 21, UNHCR and DRC have mobilized over 35 data collection and analysis partners that regularly contribute to the administration of P21 questionnaires in the field as well as the elaboration of joint analyses and recommendations in the Protection Cluster's "Protection Analysis Coordination Group. According to data collected from **January to December 2022** by **Project 21**, a total of

**3,027 Protection incidents** resulting from the precarious security and protection environment were **collected** and **documented**. The **Sahel** region recorded the **highest number of human rights violations**, followed by Centre-North and Boucle du Mouhoun regions.

- As part of its engagement towards the **Global Compact for Refugees**, the Government of Burkina Faso committed to the improvement of the legal environment in relation to statelessness and has drawn up a preliminary draft law on civil status and nationality reflecting the main aspects of the [1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and aiming to ensure](#) that this legislative reform does not include any provision that could result in situations of statelessness or create a risk of statelessness.



### Community-based protection

- **Community-based protection** works to **facilitate** access to **basic services** for forcibly displaced persons, persons at risk of statelessness who face several challenges requiring responses tailored to **each type of vulnerability**.
- Because of its **critical contributions** to **Accountability to Affected People/ Community Engagement and Accountability (AAP/CEA) coordination** in Burkina Faso, UNHCR was designated to chair the Inter-Agency **Community-Based Complaints and Feedback Mechanisms (CBCMs/CFMs) Strategic Steering Committee**.
- **Gender Based Violence (GBV)** and **Child protection** represent the **main risks** amongst affected population. In collaboration with partners, UNHCR continues to implement prevention, case management, response, and risk mitigation activities. **GBV mobile teams** are **operational** in **eight regions** and a total of **24 community-led safe spaces** are available since 2020 to offer **women and girls** information about **available services** and on issues relating to **women's rights, health in safety and confidentiality**. UNHCR and its partners ensure that **survivors who consent** to have **access to adequate care services**, could benefit from **appropriate multi-sectoral assistance**, and **referrals**, in accordance with the inter-agency standard operating procedure (SOPs) in place and in compliance with the Guiding Principles.
- The study on **digital access, communication needs** and community practices in Burkina Faso published in June 2022 highlighted the information needs of communities, mainly on assistance. UNHCR and its partners use **various communication channels**, including media, social media, and community relays, but efforts should be continued to encourage two-way communication and to adapt the media to the languages spoken.
- As part of the **promotion of communication for behavioural change** and **community protection mechanisms**, 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, where an **interactive audio game on GBV**, is also currently available in several languages.
- In the **2021-22 school year**, over **60%** of **refugee children** of **primary and secondary school age** were **not enrolled in school**. While the gross enrolment rate of refugees in primary education is close to 40% thanks to UNHCR, only 6% manage to progress to

secondary education. UNHCR and its partners continue to **facilitate the inclusion of refugees** in the **national education system** and to strengthen **refugees' access to higher education** with the aim of furthering livelihood opportunities and socio-economic inclusion. Only 2% of 18–24-year-old have access to higher education and vocational training. The **Albert Einstein German Academic Initiative for Refugees (DAFI)** scholarship programme has facilitated access to **higher education for 52 refugee students since 2016**.

- The settlement of most refugees in areas with strong security challenges poses the problem of access to **health services** for this population, which is vulnerable to forced displacement and the security crisis. During the period under review, over **400 vulnerable** refugees were identified among the refugees, 60% of whom are medically vulnerable and 30% of whom are socio-economically vulnerable and were all enrolled in the mutual health insurance thanks to UNHCR support. UNHCR's strategy for the next five years is to fully integrate refugees and asylum seekers into the country's universal health coverage.



### Durable solutions and development

- With persisting insecurity and the complexification of the operational context, UNHCR supports the Government of Burkina Faso in its efforts to ensure that refugees and IDPs are protected, live in safety and dignity, and progressively attain lasting solutions to their plights. In response to the protection crisis affecting the central Sahel and Burkina Faso, and the need to achieve sustainable impact, UNHCR is working on two tracks: **1) durable solutions for refugees, particularly Malians, including voluntary repatriation, local integration, and resettlement;** and **2) strategic partnerships with government and development actors to ensure that refugees and IDPs are considered in national strategies.**
- Third-country resettlement remains an important international protection tool for the most vulnerable refugees. Within the period under review, 16 cases of 102 individuals have been submitted to the United States of America under the categories of Legal and Physical Protection Needs and Survivor of Violence/Torture.
- UNHCR has, in close collaboration with the government, local authorities, UN agencies, the World Bank, NGOs and all other stakeholders, developed a **strategy for the socio-economic inclusion of Malian refugees** in the town of Dori, with a two-phase approach. The first phase aims to stabilise the situation of refugees in the town of Dori and the second phase is oriented towards the humanitarian-development nexus and the search for solutions by ensuring the centrality of partnership and the strengthening of peaceful coexistence between the different communities (Refugees, IDPs, host communities). This will enable refugees to secure livelihood opportunities and become self-reliant.
- UNHCR, like other UN agencies in Burkina Faso, is supporting the government in its commitment to develop a national strategy for the recovery of IDPs and host communities. This initiative aims, in view of the stagnation of the crisis, to identify general guidelines for the search for solutions in relation to returns to the localities of

origin, local integration or the relocation of displaced persons. This 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 relocation; (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.**

- UNHCR supports the Government of Burkina Faso in the operationalisation of the Bamako Process, a platform for coordinating the implementation of the conclusions of the Dialogue on Protection and Solutions to Forced Displacement in the Sahel. The Process is organised around five technical committees corresponding to the five themes developed in the Bamako Declaration, as follows: **1) Humanitarian access and civil-military coordination; 2) Protection within the framework of the UN Plan of Action for the Prevention of Violent Extremism; 3) Access to asylum in the context of mass displacement of refugees and mixed movements; 4) Solutions to the problems of refugees, IDPs and other civilian populations; 5) Access to civil status, identity documents and nationality.** To date, a draft national action plan has been drawn up and adopted; an inter-ministerial technical committee responsible for monitoring the implementation of the action plan has been set up; and a workshop to monitor the implementation of the action plan was organised on 22 and 23 December 2022, during which a progress report on all the actions carried out was produced.
- 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 Strategy for the Recovery of IDPs and Host Communities' s preparation process.



### Shelter and CRIs

- 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 CRIs assistance**. UNHCR pursued its efforts to establish, improve and maintain shelter and infrastructure and whenever possible, make a transition from emergency shelters to more durable shelter solutions.
- During the period under review, UNHCR provided **shelter assistance** to **10,881 households** (67,462 individuals), including 9,750 emergency shelters commonly designed to provide temporary and immediate shelter assistance, 1,006 semi-durable shelter, and 125 eco-friendly long-term shelters known as Nubian vault. The shelters were accompanied by the distribution of **12,579 CRIs** to 11,950 households (80,065 individuals).
- Based on lessons learned and the operational context, under the leadership of UNHCR, the Shelter Cluster technical working group held, in November 2022, a technical

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meeting to revise shelter typologies, composition of CRIs as well as unit costs. These revisions were considered in the development of the 2023 HRP.

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

United States of America | Germany | France | Canada | African Development Bank Group | European Union | CERF | United Kingdom | Luxembourg | Private donors France | Monaco | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS | Others Private donors |

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

**CONTACTS:**

**Valeria Dell’Aquila**, External Relations Officer – [dellaqui@unhcr.org](mailto:dellaqui@unhcr.org)

**Bernadette Ippet**, Assc. Reporting Officer – [ippetlet@unhcr.org](mailto:ippetlet@unhcr.org)

**Jacques De Ginestel**, Assc. External Relations / Reporting Officer – [deginest@unhcr.org](mailto:deginest@unhcr.org)

**Moussa Bougma**, Communications / PI Associate – [bougma@unhcr.org](mailto:bougma@unhcr.org)

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