



The past years have seen an escalation of clashes between mobile transhumant and sedentary herder and farming communities. IOM is facilitating collective action to preempt and mitigate the risk of persistent loss. ©IOM 2020

**USD 29M**

funding received  
of 87 M required

**233,414**

individuals reached  
of 2 M targeted



NUMBER OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS PER COUNTRY



**Burkina Faso**  
1,034,609  
Displaced Individuals (48%)

1,034,609 IDPs



**Mali**  
854,762  
Displaced Individuals (40%)

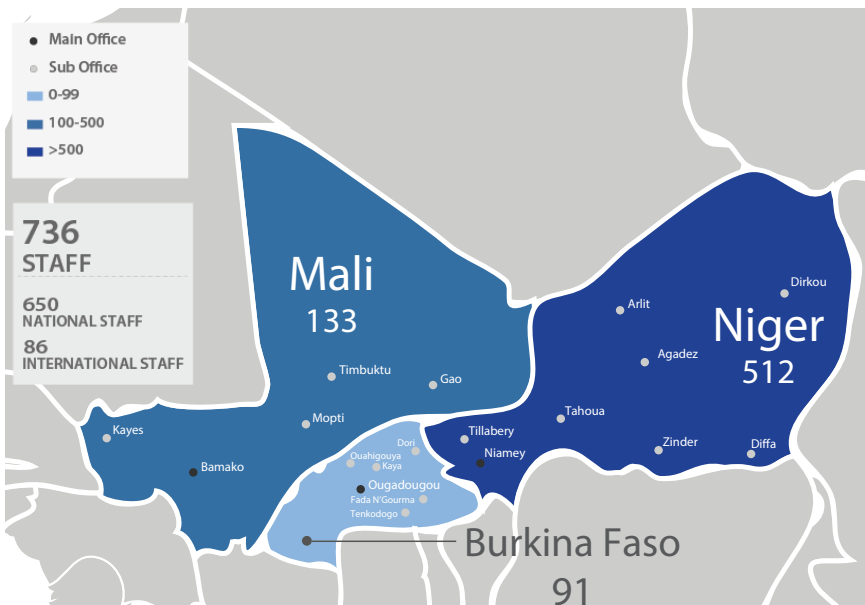
287,596 IDPs  
567,266 Ret. (IDPs)



**Niger**  
265,522  
Displaced Individuals (12%)

265,522 IDPs

IOM PRESENCE



\*Excludes beneficiaries from regional transhumance projects and recently signed projects. Covers January to September 2020

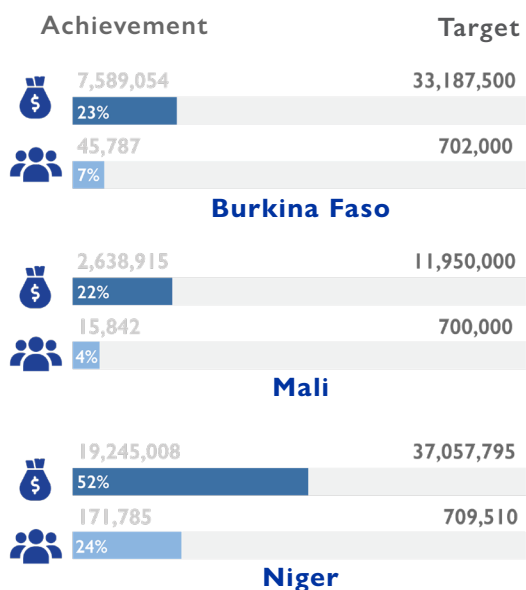
## CONTEXT ANALYSIS

In the Central Sahel countries of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, a longstanding lack of development and increasing competition over natural resources have created an environment exploited by non-state armed groups (NSAG), exacerbating inter-communal conflict. Tensions are occurring in two different areas of the region: in the Liptako-Gourma area at the border of the three countries and in Eastern Niger. In the Liptako-Gourma area, violent acts have expanded from Mali in 2012 to Niger and later Burkina Faso, which also highlights the high risk of conflict spill-over to neighbouring States in the region. Tensions in Eastern Niger originate from the Lake Chad Basin area. These complex crises are exacerbated by climatic variability, demographic pressure, high poverty levels, and the absence of state institutions in most impacted regions. This context creates a lack of access to basic services and livelihood opportunities, contributing to disaffection. NSAG activity has increased exponentially and expanded geographically in recent years, restricting access for State, humanitarian, and development actors to the areas

in most need of support. The crises also generate significant protection concerns and needs, with frequent human rights violations committed by all forces and armed groups, widespread violence, notably towards women and children, the presence of explosive devices, forced recruitments into NSAGs, kidnappings, a lack of access to documentation and justice, and massive forced displacements. In the fall of 2020, according to IOM's DTM, national authorities, UNHCR, and OCHA, over 1.5 million people across all three States have been internally displaced by the ongoing crises. All three countries are also currently going through sensitive political transitions and/or elections.

As part of its efforts to support the Governments' responses in the Central Sahel region, IOM has been scaling up its operations in the three countries to provide life-saving support to displaced and vulnerable persons affected by the growing crises, while seeking to reduce conflict drivers across the Central Sahel and prevent expansion of the conflict into bordering regions and countries.

### FUNDING AND BENEFICIARY OVERVIEW BY COUNTRY\*



## COVID-19

IOM is supporting the response to COVID-19 in the region to halt further disease transmission, limit the pandemic's humanitarian and socioeconomic effects, and support affected communities to prepare for longer term-recovery.

- In **Burkina Faso**, IOM supported health trainings led by the Direction Générale de la Santé, targeting 550 nurses, community members, and security personnel. IOM is assisting the Government of Burkina Faso to set up detection centers at POEs and recently distributed protective equipment to IDPs.
- In **Mali**, IOM and the DNDS organized a population mobility mapping workshop to identify at-risk areas, bringing together participants including health workers, social development officers, and local NGO representatives. 5,581 persons from law enforcement, customs, health workers, community members, and vulnerable groups benefitted from capacity building on preventative and protective measures against COVID-19 at border and control posts.
- In **Niger**, IOM supported over 400 COVID-19 awareness-raising sessions, which reached more than 52,300 people, and produced a risk communication guide, instructional videos, and a video on migrant stigmatization during the pandemic. The Direction Régionale de Santé Publique in Agadez has tested 1,350 migrants returning to their countries of origin. Samples are transported by EUCAP Sahel Niger flights and examined in the IOM-supported national laboratory in Niamey.

IOM has assessed the COVID-19 preventative measures and health infrastructure in 444 POEs in the region to provide training and recommendations to relevant stakeholders. The Organization also conducts flow monitoring exercises at 35 key points to examine how the pandemic has affected regional mobility in comparison to pre-pandemic rates.



# CENTRAL SAHEL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Life-saving assistance and protection is provided to displaced and affected communities based on their vulnerabilities in several sectors, while population movements are being monitored through the DTM. IOM's activities contribute to fulfilling the needs and upholding the rights of displaced and affected populations, in line with Humanitarian Response Plans and Governmental humanitarian strategies. These interventions, based on the do no harm principle, are conflict sensitive and aim at promoting social cohesion through a robust community engagement approach.

## DTM

IOM has been gradually introducing its DTM in all three countries, rolling out Mobility Tracking, Multisectoral Site and village Assessments, and Household Surveys. In Mali, where the DTM started in 2012, IOM and the DNDS conducted two rounds of assessments covering the entire country. In Niger, in collaboration with REACH, IOM has conducted village assessments of locations hosting displaced persons. In Burkina Faso, IOM has signed a cooperation agreement with the CONASUR to implement Multisectoral Site Assessments and Household Surveys in regions hosting IDPs, which should start in the coming weeks. Overall, the DTM Central Sahel is working with a network of 300 enumerators and 2,000 key informants.

## NFI

IOM and its partners assisted 5,232 forcibly displaced households (33,779 individuals) with e-shelters and 6,964 households (43,034 individuals) with NFIs across Niger. In Burkina Faso, 2,000 shelter kits and 1,000 NFI kits were distributed whereas in Mali, 224 shelters were distributed. IOM is the lead agency of the Shelter/NFI cluster in Niger and co-lead agency in Mali.

## CCCM

In Burkina Faso and Mali, IOM has been supporting the establishment of site management coordination mechanisms led by UNHCR and Government emergency management agencies (CONASUR/DNDS).

## PROTECTION

IOM has been providing protection services across Burkina Faso and Niger, including capacity building, awareness raising and GBV prevention, child protection, and counter trafficking in crisis. Activities included the distribution of 8,100 dignity kits and consented referrals of GBV survivors, the mapping of GBV services with mobile teams, the training of protection committees, and capacity building of authorities in protection and GBV.

## MHPSS

IOM is delivering psychosocial support services in Burkina Faso, aimed at reinforcing the well-being of affected populations through sensitizations, mediations, socio-cultural activities, counselling, psychological first aid, and referrals to specialized services. IOM is also coordinating the MHPSS working group in Burkina Faso, with Humanité and Inclusion as the co-lead agency. IOM Burkina Faso has been assisting 17,096 beneficiaries with MHPSS services.

## WASH

IOM is improving access to water and sanitation through the construction and rehabilitation of 92 latrines, the distribution of 14,685 WASH kits, and the provision of soap and handwashing stations to 3,655 IDPs and host communities in Niger, Burkina Faso, and Mali.

## ONE SHELTER, MANY OPPORTUNITIES

Yattara Fatimata and her husband Dicko had to flee from their home in Deou, Burkina Faso, with their family in July 2019. They found refuge in the center of Barsalogho where IOM provided them with an emergency Sahelian Shelter. "When we received our shelter, it was like a miracle. Finally, my whole family was protected from the sun, from the wind and dust, and all of us were under the same roof", Fatimata confided in us. "To have a shelter that is as spacious as we received, allowed me to continue my activities and provide for my family", Dicko told us. Dicko is, in fact, a tailor. In his former makeshift shelter, there was no space at all to place his sewing machine. But now, he is able to sew and sell clothing. Yattara Fatima, Dicko and their relatives are currently a family of seven, and they have all found a home together in one shelter; Dicko has built upon the humanitarian assistance provided by IOM and re-started his small business.



More than 1.5 million people are displaced in the Central Sahel. In a bid to protect and assist the most vulnerable, IOM provides displaced persons with emergency shelter assistance and essential household items ©IOM 2020

# CENTRAL SAHEL GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

To promote peace in Central Sahel, IOM applies its substantial experience in supporting communities' transition out of conflict, notably through community-based conflict management, providing support to community reconciliation processes intended to mitigate the drivers of conflict. In support of the three Governments, IOM is also promoting the respect of basic rights and access to essential services for vulnerable people, contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including on Gender Equality; Clean Water and Sanitation; Life on Land; Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; and Partnerships to achieve the Goals.

## TRANSHUMANCE

Disputes between herders and farmer communities have been generating massive displacements. To mitigate and prevent further violence, IOM used its longstanding experience in data collection to establish the Transhumance Tracking Tool (TTT) to map the formal and informal corridors and to monitor the transhumance flows throughout the region. Coupled with an Early Action system that involves local authorities, relevant line ministries, and herder representatives, the TTT helps inform all stakeholders about the likelihood of conflict ahead of a problematic herd's arrival in sensitive spots throughout the entire Liptako-Gourma region. In addition, 10,000 people are benefitting from awareness-raising sessions on social cohesion, transhumance, and peace in Burkina Faso.

## PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Feelings of social relegation and the perceived lack of future opportunities are putting people, and notably youth, at risk of recruitment by NSAG, generating further instability and forced displacement. IOM is engaging all groups including youth in decision-making processes, trainings, and kits donation for small business start-up and supporting socio-cultural events that bring communities together. In addition, IOM is establishing networks of community leaders who are fighting against the influence of violent extremist organizations. IOM has completed 13 quick impact projects in favor of communities exposed to violent threats in the Diffa and Tillabéry regions in 2020.

## PROMOTING SOCIAL DIALOGUE AND COMMUNITY VIOLENCE REDUCTION

To prevent the emergence or escalation of conflicts, IOM is creating the conditions for dialogue between aggrieved communities and supporting them to seek peace through joint activities. IOM facilitated the signature of a Peace Agreement between the Fulani Bororo and Tuareg Daoussak communities in Abala Department, Niger, in August 2019. IOM Burkina Faso strengthened institutional and operational capacities in conflict prevention and management, targeting 6 technical services, as well as 4 NGOs at the national level and 63 peace workers at the local level. In Mali, IOM mapped conflict zones in the regions of Mopti and Timbuktu. Communities were able to rebuild trust and resolve problems through dialogue, which benefitted 500 people. In addition, IOM financed the rehabilitation of a dam in Goudam (Timbuktu region) to facilitate access to water and a cultural space for young people.

## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND LIVELIHOODS

To restore and/or achieve self-sufficiency among those most in need, IOM ensures the provision of livestock and support packages for agriculture and supports infrastructure rehabilitation and construction. In Burkina Faso, 4,900 people have received livelihood support for either agricultural or breeding activities in the Nord region.

## DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

In line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, IOM programming contributes in reducing risks of natural disasters, notably through enhancing Government's capacities in Burkina Faso and Mali. IOM aims to mitigate with the negative impacts of desertification and flooding with activities to prevent further desertification and to support water management. IOM is also co-leading, along with FAO, the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) for West and Central Africa aiming at enhancing government capacities.

Throughout its interventions, from emergency response to contributing to peace and development, IOM promotes an inclusive, resilience-based approach and embraces strategies that support progression towards resolving displacement, while ensuring safety nets are in place to address negative impacts of mobility in crisis.



In Burkina Faso, community members and displaced persons participate in cash-for-work activities that enable them to meet their immediate needs and clean up their cities. ©IOM 2020

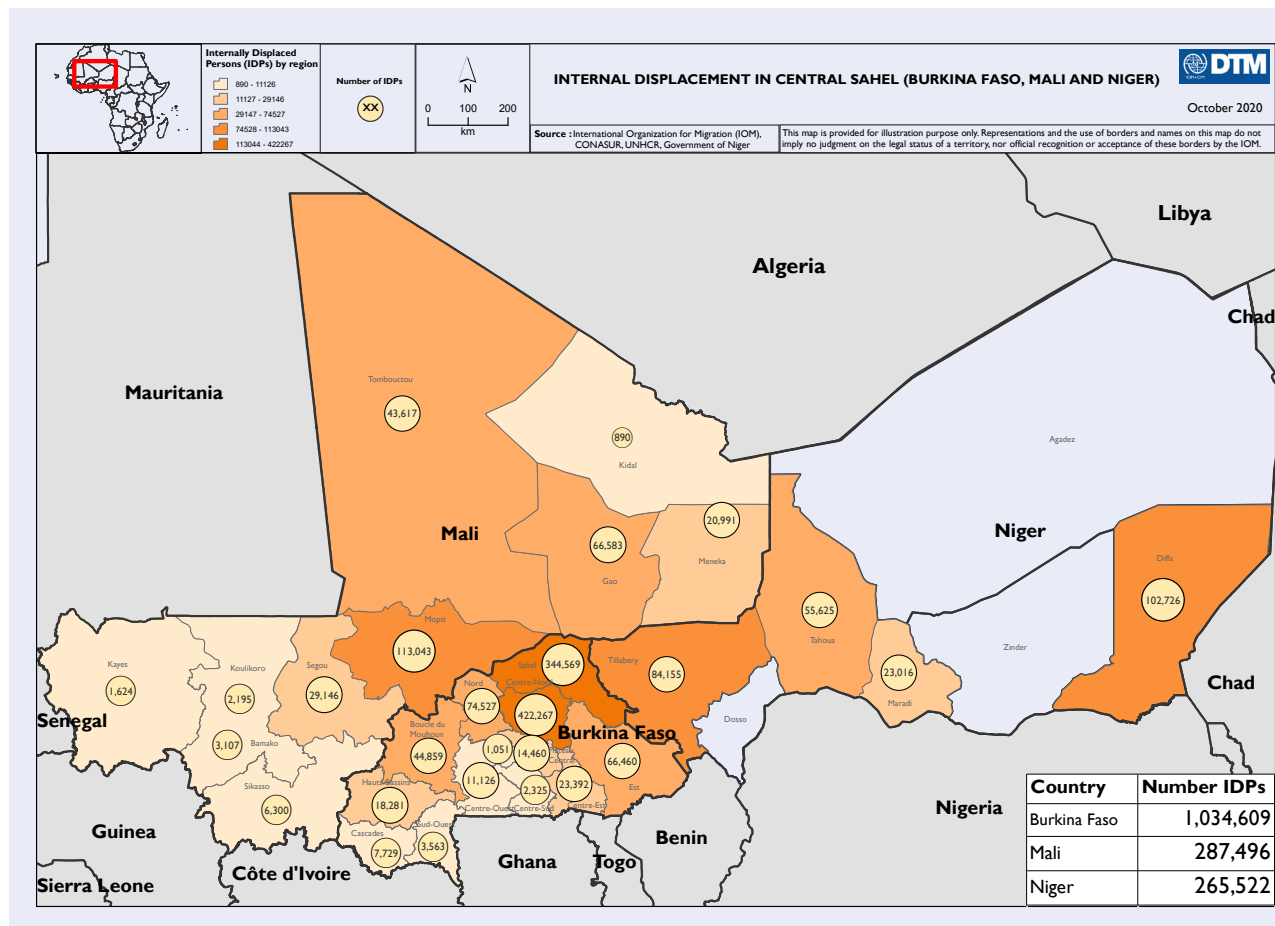


## OPERATIONALIZING THE HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT-PEACE (HDPN) NEXUS

IOM views localization, i.e. working closely with local authorities and empowering community-based organizations and local networks, as one critical way to operationalize the HDPN nexus. IOM's approach to localization is adaptive and tailored to ensure effective attainment of operational objectives. In humanitarian and recovery contexts, IOM engages established local civil society organizations (CSO) to rapidly address affected populations' needs. Over the course of 2020, IOM has engaged 85 CSOs in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger to support critical assistance delivery and governance efforts. The Organization also established and empowered 23 groups and committees of displaced and affected people to guide decision-making processes around aid delivery and become providers of assistance and protection, which remain active well beyond the conclusion of IOM-supported programs. As windows open for recovery and longer-term transitional and development efforts, IOM continues to engage with local communities through the creation of local participatory committees, such as the 24 Peace Committees established in 2020 across all three countries, supplementing the 424 Peace Committees previously created and still operational across Niger. IOM's regional approach on cross-border initiatives such as the work on transhumance, a disaster risk initiative, or the regional analysis of displacement data, which are supported by its Regional Office for West and Central Africa based in Dakar, is also a strong asset for operationalizing the nexus.

## ABBREVIATIONS

CCCM	camp coordination camp management
CONASUR	Conseil national de secours d'Urgence et de Réhabilitation
DNDS	Direction Nationale du Développement Social
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
GBV	gender-based violence
IDP	internally-displaced persons
MHPSS	mental health and psychosocial support
NFI	non-food items
PoE	points of entry
OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
WASH	water, sanitation, and hygiene
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees



IOM's Programming in the Central Sahel is supported by:



## CONTACTS AND USEFUL LINKS

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[Global Crisis Response Platform](#) | [COVID Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan](#) | [Displacement Tracking Matrix](#) | [Jun-Dec 2020 Central Sahel Appeal](#)