

NRC's operations in **Burkina Faso**

Humanitarian overview

Burkina Faso has experienced an unprecedented rise in violence and skyrocketing humanitarian needs since 2019 due to attacks by non-state armed groups. Around 40 towns and villages were under blockade in 2024, trapping roughly a million civilians. Around 2 million people are internally displaced, and many have been forced to flee multiple times either due to insecurity or to a lack of humanitarian assistance in areas not accessible by humanitarian organisations. In some places, the authorities are announcing that people will return to their places of origin, but in 10 out of the 13 regions most affected by insecurity, the humanitarian situation and population displacement continue to be a concern.

In early 2023, Burkina Faso was home to nearly half of all closed schools in Central and West Africa, and this situation persisted in 2024. About 1 in 4 schools were not operational, disrupting the education of over a million children. The number of people facing acute food insecurity multiplied ninefold between 2018 and 2024. In the summer of 2024, more than 2,700,000 people needed urgent food assistance. Insecurity has caused the closure of at least 37% of health centres across the country, depriving more than 4 million people of health care. Burkina Faso has been at the forefront of the most neglected crises for two years. And by 2025, 5.9 million people will need humanitarian assistance.



Our core activities



Education



Information, counselling
and legal assistance (ICLA)



Livelihoods
and food security



Protection
from violence



Shelter
and settlements



Water, sanitation
and hygiene (WASH)

NRC in Burkina Faso

Established	2019
International staff	11
National staff	152

Our areas of operation

- Ouagadougou (country office)
- Centre North
- Sahel
- Boucle du Mouhoun (through local partner)
- East (Fada NGourma)



Our activities in detail

NRC has been present in Burkina Faso since July 2019. Starting in the north-central region, it then spread to the Sahel, Boucle du Mouhoun and Eastern regions. Key sectors include housing, water, sanitation, education, livelihoods, and food security, ICLA and protection from violence for a total of 110,530 people – over half of them women and girls – supported by NRC in 2024. NRC is the co-lead of the Access Working Group and the Rapid Response Coordination Group. NRC is also responsible for the housing, land and property area of responsibility. NRC also co-leads the Advocacy Working Group within the FONGIH network. In mid-2023, Burkina Faso and Niger became two distinct country offices.



11 088 people reached in 2024 ▼

Education

Focusing on education in emergencies, we are:

- supporting the formal system to increase capacity for internally displaced children
- providing adapted learning conditions to ensure the retention of students in schools
- conducting awareness-raising campaigns to promote inclusive education and enhance social cohesion and peaceful cohabitation between displaced and host community children
- distributing education kits to improve the learning conditions of students
- constructing semi-permanent school blocks and repairing existing classrooms
- working to improve access to education in areas where schools have been forcibly closed by armed groups, while protecting children from harm and promoting safe and inclusive learning environments
- providing vocational training for marginalised youth while promoting apprenticeships, mentoring and career guidance
- initiating the Better Learning Programme in targeted schools to support out-of-school children who have experienced trauma
- building the capacity of teachers and community members on the newly introduced Better Learning Programme



36,549 people reached in 2024 ▼

Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)

We are assisting affected communities to:

- access information on legal and civil documentation processes
- obtain the civil and identity documentation necessary to access rights and services
- understand and protect their housing, land and property rights

Our teams:

- organise capacity-building sessions for local authorities and civil documentation officials on issues pertaining to land and civil documentation
- lead the housing, land and property rights working group to build capacity and advocate with authorities, humanitarian actors and other stakeholders



36,666 people reached in 2024 ▼

Livelihoods and food security

Our livelihoods team is:

- supporting targeted households with income-generating activities and reducing negative coping mechanisms
- supporting people living in displacement with negotiating access to land and distributing seeds and agricultural tools
- improving access to food and non-food items for the most vulnerable internally displaced people through distribution of cash or in-kind assistance
- distributing small animals for livestock recovery
- distributing agricultural input and tools enabling households and communities to start rebuilding their lives



15,313 people reached in 2024 ▼

Protection from violence

Our site management teams are:

- reinforcing site management programming
- improving access to protection and assistance
- establishing and strengthening coordination mechanisms and community participatory structures
- strengthening community safety and violence prevention
- supporting community-driven risk reduction action plans



28,058 people reached in 2024 ▼

Shelter and settlements

Our shelter teams are:

- providing essential household items including kitchen sets, bedding, solar torches, and mosquito nets
- providing complete shelter solutions and education infrastructures either through temporary or transitional models (including long-term models for schools)
- conducting site coordination activities, especially site planning, to enable the installation of shelters and minimum basic services, delivered by NRC or in coordination with other actors
- advocating on issues related to the establishment of new sites
- constructing permanent houses to contribute to the local resettlement of internally displaced people
- contributing positively to the shelter cluster on global and local issues



43,036 people reached in 2024 ▼

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

Our WASH teams are:

- providing schools with WASH minimum packages including water and sanitation infrastructures, sanitation and hygiene behaviour change, and governance activities
- providing access to water through the construction and rehabilitation of solar powered water supply systems and boreholes with handpumps in sites, settlements and hosting communities
- providing emergency water solutions in the wake of crisis and water points rehabilitation in blockaded areas through a flying team
- improving access to sanitation in sites, settlements and hosting communities through construction, rehabilitation and emptying of culturally appropriate and inclusive latrines and showers with handwashing stations
- fostering positive hygiene behaviour change through information, communication and education of communities on hygiene practices and the prevention of communicable diseases
- providing appropriate hygiene items to communities and putting in place handwashing facilities
- supporting local structures (communities, municipalities) in collaboration with decentralised water and sanitation services in the sustainable management of infrastructures

Our donors

We are grateful for the generous support from our donors:

- Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs NMFA (HUM)
- United States Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)
- German Federal Foreign Office (FFO, GMFA)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
- Luxembourg Aide et Développement (LuxDEV)
- Fonds humanitaire régional pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et centrale (FHRAOC)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)

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