

# BURKINA FASO

## Conflict and displacement

At least 49 people have been killed following an attack on 1 January 2019 in Yirgou and a string of retaliations by the armed group Ansaroul Islam and Koglweogo auto-defence groups in surrounding villages in the Centre-Nord and Sahel regions. The Sahel region has been increasingly impacted by the presence and activities of Islamist armed groups whose influence has also spread to the Nord, Centre-Nord and Est regions. The events led to the displacement of at least 6,100 people but this figure is likely to reach more than 12,300 as registrations are still ongoing. Displaced populations are in need of food and shelter assistance. Access to health services and education are also constrained for both IDPs and host communities.

### NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE



### IMPACT



Affected groups	Nord	Centre-Nord	Sahel
Resident pop.	1,632,149	1,687,858	1,395,109
IDPs in 2018	1,894	1,620	44,312
New displaced in January*	0	1,285	4818
Malian refugees	58	0	23,787
Schools closed in October 2018	67 out of 111	No data	237 out of 663

OCHA 10/01/2019, OCHA 02/01/2019, OCHA 06/12/2018

\*Numbers as of 10/01/2019, not taking into account new registration

### Anticipated scope and scale

Activities of armed groups have increased in intensity and frequency since the beginning of 2018 and are likely to **further impact the civilian population and humanitarian needs** in 2019. Violence has spread from the northern regions and is now likely to have protection consequences **in the Est region**.

The violence generated by the armed groups could create the ground for **intercommunal conflict** similar to the situation observed in Mali, with significant displacements and the need for urgent humanitarian assistance.

### Key priorities



**+49**  
people killed



**+28,000**  
people displaced in 2019



**+307,000**  
people in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis)

### Humanitarian constraints



Insecurity and the increasing number of attacks led by armed groups are hindering access to some areas in the northern regions. The State of Emergency declared on 31 December might also impact humanitarian activities.

#### Limitations

Assessments of the situation are still ongoing and there is limited information available on sectoral needs. Lack of disaggregated data makes it difficult to assess specific vulnerable groups.

## Crisis impact

On 1 January 2019, unidentified armed men attacked the village of Yirgou, in the Centre-Nord region, and killed six people belonging to the Mossi community, including the village leader. In retaliation, Koglweogo auto-defence groups attacked members of the Fulani community, perceived as supporters of the attackers in Yirgou. Other locations including Kaya and Boussouma, in Centre-Nord region and Arbinda, Kelbo and Djibo, in Sahel region were also affected by the retaliation. (OCHA 10/01/2019) At least 49 people have been killed following the attack on 1 January, and more than 6,100 people were displaced in both regions, adding to the 47,826 people displaced by previous episodes of violence in the Centre Nord, Nord and Sahel region since October 2017. (OCHA 10/01/2019, ECHO 10/01/2019) Those numbers however are likely to increase in the coming days as registrations are still ongoing. According to the latest estimates, more than 28,000 people have been displaced because of violence since 1 January. (ECHO 23/01/2019)

On 31 December 2018, a State of Emergency was declared in seven out of 13 regions, namely Hauts Bassins, Boucle du Mouhoun, Cascades, Centre-Est, Est, Nord and Sahel. The measure was adopted after an attack on 27 December that killed 10 gendarmes in the village of Toéni, Boucle du Mouhoun region. (RFI 28/12/2018, Jeune Afrique 31/12/2018) Attacks have increased in frequency and intensity since 2017 and violence has spread from the northern regions to the east of the country.

**Food and livelihood:** According to on-site needs assessments conducted before this new wave of displacement, the food consumption score of the overall population is satisfactory, largely due to food distribution programmes. However, around 55% of the population remains food insecure in the Nord and Sahel regions. IDPs are more severely food insecure than non-displaced populations, however both groups are at concerning levels: around 29% of IDPs had a poor food consumption score and more than 68% were severely food insecure. 61% of the displaced households and 59% of the host population households have adopted irreversible negative coping mechanisms, such as selling livestock or eating crops to cover their food needs. (Humanité et Inclusion 20/06/2018)

Displaced people have also lost access to their livelihoods. Although there is limited data regarding the needs of the people displaced by the events in January, this new wave of displacement is likely to further impact the livelihood of the host populations while the displaced populations will be in need of immediate food assistance. Assessments conducted before this new population influx in Deou, Sahel region, where 2,344 IDPs are hosted, have shown that food is the first need expressed by the population. (IOM 30/10/2018)

**WASH:** Access to clean drinking water is likely to be a challenge for displaced populations, especially for the IDPs staying in informal shelters and camps. Despite limited information regarding the needs of newly displaced populations, previously

conducted on-site evaluations in the Nord and Sahel regions have shown that around 23% of the population, mainly IDPs, do not have access to latrines and practice open-air defecation. (Humanité et Inclusion 20/06/2018) In other IDP sites, this proportion is as high as 77% of the IDP population. (IOM 30/10/2018)

**Health:** Insecurity has constrained access to health facilities, because travelling long distances has become dangerous, especially for women and children. Insecurity is also impacting the delivery of health services throughout the regions affected due to a lack of qualified personnel. (Jeune Afrique 28/03/2018) In the Sahel region, four health facilities are closed while another seven are only offering limited services in the Sahel and Nord regions. (OCHA 18/01/2019)

**Shelter:** At least 6,100 people were displaced following the attack in Yirgou and are now accommodated in four sites in the municipalities of Barsalgho (Centre-Nord region), Kelbo, Arbinda and Djibo (Sahel region). (ECHO 10/01/2019, OCHA 10/01/2019) Baseline information regarding living conditions in sites where IDPs from previous waves of displacement were already present is unavailable.

**Protection:** Displaced populations in the Nord and Sahel region are facing significant protection concerns. Attacks against civilians have increased, with 166 security incidents registered in 2018, killing at least 164 people and injuring another 141. (OCHA 30/10/2018) On 10 January, another attack in the market of Gasseliki, Sahel region, left at least 12 civilians dead. (Jeune Afrique 14/01/2019)

**Education:** Insecurity and targeted killings of teachers have impacted education access. (UNHCR 10/2018) At least 25 cases of attacks against education facilities were registered in 2018. In December, four schools were destroyed. (UNICEF 01/11/2018, Insecurity Insight 31/12/2018) In 2018, 790 schools were closed across Burkina Faso because of insecurity, including 432 in the Sahel region, and 150 in the Nord region. The Est region is also exposed to violence and 197 schools were closed in 2018. In total, close to 100,000 children do not have access to school because of insecurity. (OCHA 18/01/2019, IRIN 23/11/2018, OCHA 31/12/2018)

## Vulnerable groups affected

Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to security risks around temporary shelters, especially when displaced by conflict. There is an increased risk of exposure to incidents of rape, sexual assault, and gender-based violence, and such incidents go largely underreported. People with disabilities and older people may find leaving their shelters to look for safety/assistance more challenging, especially for those living in isolated and hard-to-reach areas. Armed groups in the area have targeted schools in the past.

Disruption in education services exacerbate the vulnerability of children who are at risk of exploitation and abuse, especially when separated from their families.

## Humanitarian and operational constraints

Insecurity, the presence of armed groups and the deployment of security forces have constrained humanitarian access. (ECHO 18/12/2018) Security escorts are sometimes required on some roads in the Sahel region after threats and attacks were registered, especially between Djibo and Dori, and along the road leading from Gorom-Gorom to Négne. (OCHA 09/04/2018)

On 11 January, the State of Emergency declared on 31 December was extended for six months by the authorities, which is likely to impact humanitarian access in the regions concerned. (OCHA 14/01/2019)

## Aggravating factors

### Food insecurity and malnutrition

In Burkina Faso, agriculture is the principal source of livelihood for over 80% of the population. Agriculture is mainly rainfed, making it highly dependent upon rainfall amounts and distribution. In 2017, the dry season, which usually spans from November to May, was longer than usual and 2018 was also affected by below usual rainfalls, negatively impacting pasture lands and crops. (FEWSNET 12/2018) In 2018, the lean season (June to mid-September) started earlier than usual and the estimated number of people with urgent need of food assistance increased from 257,000 in 2017 to 954,000 in 2018. (ECHO 18/12/2018)

According to the latest Cadre Harmonisé, more than 3.2 million people were in IPC phase 2 (Stressed) and around 307,000 were in IPC phase 3 (Crisis) throughout the country between October and December 2018. Around 27% of the people in IPC Phase 3 are living in the Sahel region, 13% in the Nord region and around 9% in the Centre Nord region. Projections for the first half of 2019 show figures increasing to 3.7 million people in IPC phase 2, 651,976 people in IPC phase 3, and around 24,000 in IPC phase 4 (Emergency). All the people at risk of falling into IPC phase 4 are living in the Sahel region where, according to the last SMART survey, at least 1% of children under 5 suffer from Severe Acute Malnutrition. (IPC 10/11/2018, SMART 2016) Some 466,000 people are considered in need of nutrition aid for 2019. (OCHA 18/01/2019)

## Contextual information

### History of conflict and relevant stakeholders

The **Koglweogo defence groups** were formed by farmers in the context of the reorganisation of the security forces in early 2015 to respond to rising insecurity in the northern regions but have since evolved into more organised armed groups implementing their own sets of rules and passing sentences. (NORIA 15/11/2018, RFI 18/03/2016)

**Ansaroul Islam** was founded in 2016 by a local Fulani preacher inspired by the Macina Liberation Front, a Malian armed group, and has close links to the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS).

The **Support Group to Islam and Muslims** (JNIM) was formed in March 2017 in Mali when several Islamist groups in the area (mainly Ansar Dine, the Macina Liberation Front, Al-Mourabitoun and the Saharan branch of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb) joined under this unified banner.

Most of the attacks carried out in the country are attributed to Ansaroul Islam and the JNIM. Since 2015, more than 270 people were killed in attacks led by those groups. (Jeune Afrique 04/01/2019) At least 84 security incidents directly linked to Ansaroul Islam and the JNIM were identified between January 2018 and January 2019. (ACLED 18/01/2019) The groups have taken advantage of the weakness of the security apparatus of the country since the fall of former president Blaise Compaoré in October 2014, which left the security forces disorganised. (Crisis Group 05/03/2018)

Although Islamist armed groups have been active in Burkina Faso for a long time, a shift in the magnitude and frequency of their operations was observed in 2018. On 2 March, the JNIM launched two attacks on symbolic targets: the headquarters of the national army and the French embassy, both located in the capital city of Ouagadougou, leaving at least 16 dead and around 85 people injured. (RFI 05/03/2018) Ougadougou was also attacked in January 2016 (New York Times 15/01/2016) and August 2017 (Le Monde 14/08/2017), but the attacks in March showed an increased level of organisation and preparedness (ACLED 17/01/2019). Since then, attacks have increased in frequency and violence has spread from the regions bordering Mali to others closer to the capital and toward the east of the country, in the regions bordering Niger where a State of Emergency has been in place since 30 November. There are now concerns that the Islamist armed groups' influence will cross borders again and affect countries such as Benin and Togo. (IRIN News 15/01/2019, Crisis Group 12/2018)

The Islamist armed groups are also manipulating ethnic tensions to destabilise the country. They have recruited Fulani in their ranks, which adds to the perception that the armed groups represent the whole Fulani community. Resentment and mistrust toward

the Fulani community have increased as attacks led by Islamist armed groups have become more frequent. This situation has also been observed with increasing frequency in the neighbouring regions of central Mali. A similar situation in Burkina Faso is likely to see an increase in the number of protection incidents and to lead to further waves of displacement. (Jeune Afrique 14/01/2019, Le Monde 10/04/2017)

The government response is supported by France which has deployed its military in Burkina Faso and neighbouring countries since 2013, mainly to combat Islamist armed groups and to work with authorities to ensure security under the name **Operation Barkhane**.

Burkina Faso, along with three other countries in the Sahel region (Mali, Niger, and Chad) have also formed a regional military alliance known as **the G5 Sahel**. The group aims to combat the increasing number of attacks by Islamist armed groups, as well as transnational trafficking of both drugs and humans. However, the G5 has not been able to be fully operational due to organisational issues and a lack of funding. The group was brought to a standstill in June 2018 after its headquarters was attacked in Mali. (Jeune Afrique 20/01/2019)

## Past conflict and displacement

In addition to the 60,171 people estimated displaced in the country, there are also 24,600 Malian refugees living in the Sahel region, mainly in the camps of Mentao and Goudébo. (UNHCR 27/12/2018) Those refugees have been in the country since the outbreak of the conflict in northern Mali in 2011. Following a new wave of violence due to the intercommunal conflict in Central Mali, another 4,500 people arrived from Mali in 2018. (OCHA 06/12/2018, ECHO 14/12/2018)

## Key characteristics

- **Demographic profile:** In total, an estimated 1.4 million people live in conflict-affected regions of Burkina Faso, corresponding to the entire population of the Sahel region. However, as conflict and violence are spreading, another 3.3 million people living in the Nord and Centre-Nord regions could be affected, while more than 1.7 million people live in the Est region, where armed groups' violence is also increasing. (ECHO 14/12/2018, OCHA 06/12/2018)
- **WASH:** In 2015, 48% of the urban population and 12% of the rural population was using at least basic sanitation services (WHO 2015).

- **Key health statistics:** In 2017, the infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births was 51, and the under-five mortality rate was at 81.2. (World Bank 21/01/2019, UNICEF 21/01/2019)
- **Nutrition:** In Burkina Faso, 7.6% of children under 5 suffer from Global Acute Malnutrition and 1.4% of Severe Acute Malnutrition. (SMART 2016)
- **Literacy:** In 2015, the adult literacy rate stood at 34% and the youth literacy rate (15–24) at 50% (UNESCO 2015). The primary education gross enrolment ratio was 93% in 2017 and the net enrolment rate was 74%. (UNESCO 2017).

## Response capacity

### Local and national response capacity

The response is coordinated by the national government through the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR). Some FCFA 183 million (around 280,000 euros) was allocated to the response. Delivery of food, NFIs and hygiene kits has already started although it is unclear whether it is enough to cover the needs of all the affected people. (OCHA 10/01/2019)

### International response capacity

A limited number of international organisations and INGOs are present in Burkina Faso. In total, 13 INGOs are currently implementing projects in the Nord and Sahel regions, mostly on health (8 partners), WASH (8 partners) and food security (7 partners). (OCHA 13/11/2018). However, the volatile security situation in the region makes it difficult for aid actors to access certain areas and provide an adequate response.

Only 60% of the USD 90 million sought by the 2018 Emergency and Resilience Plan has been funded (OCHA 22/11/2018).

## Information gaps and needs

- Information on quantified sectoral needs in Nord and Sahel regions, especially regarding shelter and WASH needs, is very limited.
- There is a lack of disaggregated data concerning not only the IDP population, but also the host communities affected by the displacements.
- Available information is often outdated and does not take into consideration the newer waves of displacements.

## Lessons learned

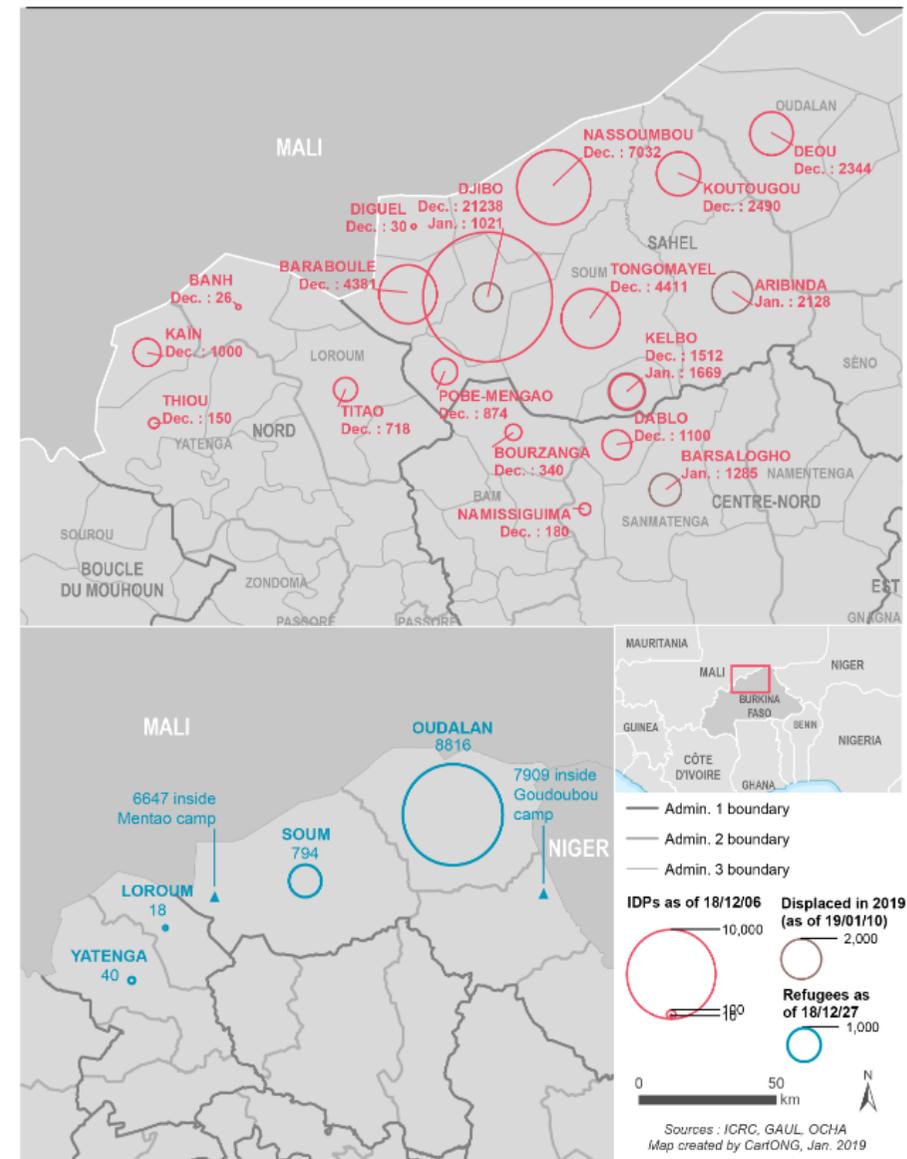
Food and water resources in the host areas are often strained by the arrival of displaced populations. Activities supporting the livelihood of both IDPs and host community members are important to prevent tensions and ensure sustainable reconstruction of the affected areas.

In previous displacements in Burkina Faso, on-site evaluations have shown that IDPs used non-protected water sources such as open wells, rivers, and lakes as their main sources of water. Assessments have also highlighted the lack of access to latrines and the high frequency of open-air defecation. Measures should be taken to ensure adequate access of both IDP and host populations to safe drinking water and latrines and to prevent the transmission of waterborne diseases.

Supporting host communities is crucial as most IDPs depend greatly on community support systems.

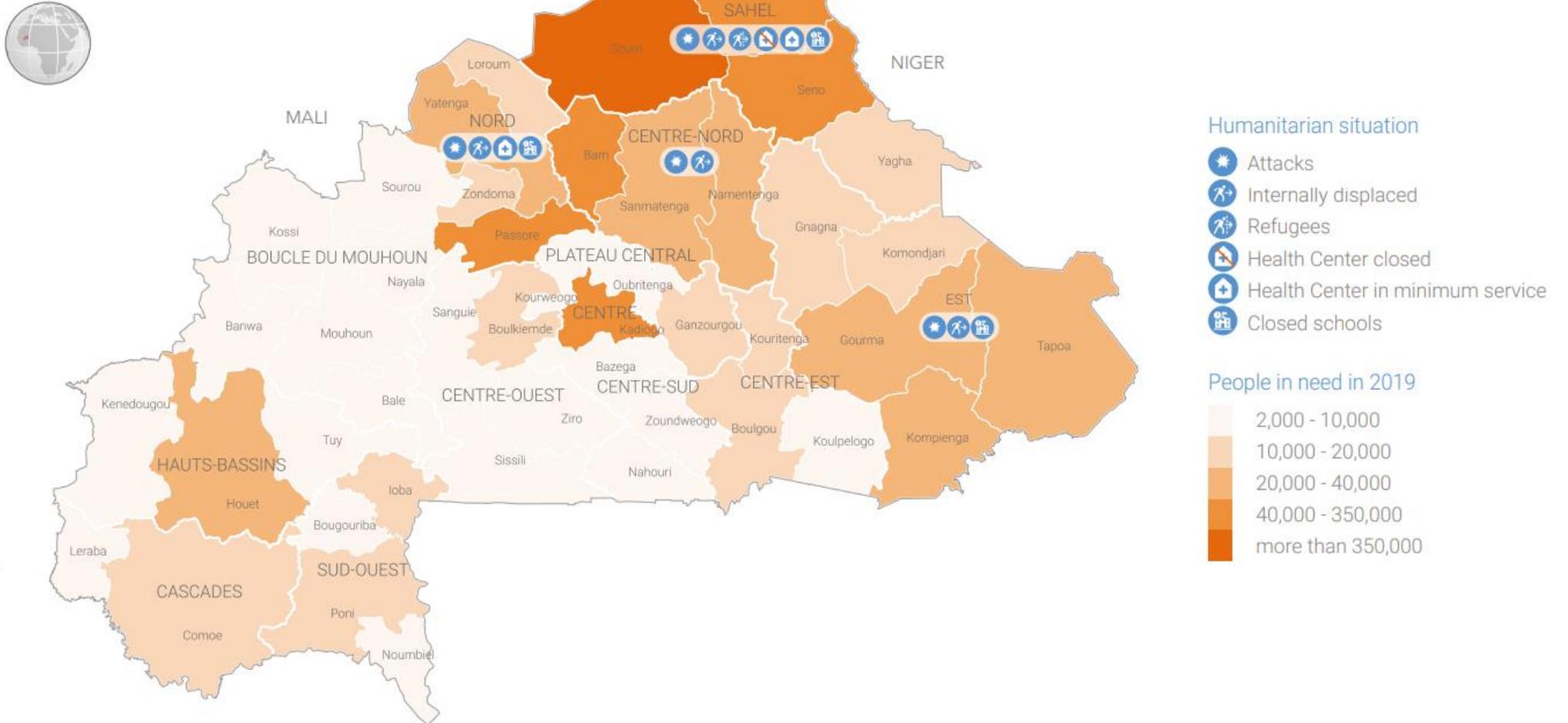
## Map: Displacements

**Burkina Faso : IDP Displacements**  
as of December 2018 and January 2019



# Map: People in Need in Burkina Faso in 2019

## PEOPLE IN NEED IN 2019



Source: OCHA 18/01/2019