



IEDA Relief

2013 ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT – BURKINA FASO

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

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*Prepared by
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ABOUT IEDA RELIEF

International Emergency and Development Aid (IEDA Relief) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, international non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Houston, Texas. IEDA Relief is registered in the United States of America and in Belgium and is incorporated in the US state of Texas under the Federal Tax ID (EIN/Tax ID Number: 26-3977484).

Since its inception, IEDA Relief has led operations in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and the Philippines. As of March 2014, IEDA Relief is active in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and the Philippines and maintains regional offices in Dakar, Senegal and Arlington, Virginia.

Mission

The mission of IEDA Relief is to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable people by tackling the underlying causes of poverty so that people can become self-sufficient and achieve their full potential.

Vision

Our vision is to establish a stable environment with sustainable solutions that benefit the population in need. We empower communities to become self-sufficient and to decide how to improve and save lives while bringing about change that is culturally acceptable and building upon existing efforts and successes.

Values

We are committed to working in the most difficult conditions to reach the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. We believe that investing in people and their abilities to support themselves and their families is critical to the long-term process of reducing poverty. We work to empower communities in conflict-torn and disaster-affected areas to save lives, sustain human dignity and restore a healthy community. We serve vulnerable people in need, regardless of their belief, culture, language, custom, sect, ethnicity and/or political affiliation.

Statement from the Head of Mission



IEDA Relief initially sent a team to Burkina Faso in June 2012 in response to an increasing number of Malian refugees crossing the border into Burkina Faso. Since then, IEDA Relief Burkina Faso has established a headquarters in Ouagadougou and field offices in Dori/Goudoubo, Djibo/Mentao and Bobo-Dioulasso. In 2013, IEDA Relief was active in providing aid and services to nearly 50,000 Malian refugees and asylum seekers in all official camps and in multiple spontaneous refugee sites, working closely with the UNHCR, the Burkina Faso government (CONAREF) and other implementing partners. IEDA Relief continued to operate in its camp management/camp coordination role, provided various community and protection services in each refugee site and also took on the responsibility of distributing food and non-food items. Our work helped to ensure that, despite increasingly limited funding for this region, Malian refugees have a safe place to call home and access to essential services in Burkina Faso. Looking forward, we hope to continue to support the Malian population in Burkina Faso and to facilitate their return to Mali when the conditions allow. Given our extensive experience in Burkina Faso, it is also important for IEDA Relief to explore opportunities to help the Burkinabe population meet its development objectives.

- Phil Manuulwa, Head of Mission 2013

About the country program

IEDA Relief has been active in Burkina Faso since the onset of the Malian crisis in 2012. In response to the growing number of Malian refugees flowing into Burkina Faso, IEDA Relief began operating closely with the UNHCR and the Burkinabe government as one of several implementing partners to facilitate the support of this new refugee population in Burkina Faso. In 2013, IEDA Relief had a team of over 70 people – most of which were recruited locally – in Burkina Faso, with its main office in the capital of Ouagadougou and field offices in Djibo (near the Mentao camp), Dori (near the Goudebo camp) and the southern city of Bobo-Dioulasso. At the request of the Burkinabe government and in accordance with UNHCR protection standards, IEDA Relief played an integral role in helping to consolidate the refugee population into the Mentao and Goudoubo camps between October 2012 and June 2013.

Operational context

Beginning in January 2012, the Malian population experienced periods of unrest and hostility brought about by multifaceted conflicts involving the National Liberation Movement of Azawad (MNLA) and its support from terrorist factions, the Malian army who completed a coup d'état in March 2012 and various Islamist movements that began to exert increasing power following the coup d'état. In January 2013, a UN-sanctioned multinational intervention led by France's military troops was implemented to reclaim occupied territory in northern Mali and expel terrorist forces from the most populated areas.

During this turbulent period, Malians fled the environment of violence and human rights violations in their homeland to seek refuge in neighboring countries, including Burkina Faso. It is estimated that nearly 200,000 Malian refugees fled to neighboring countries,¹ of which nearly 50,000 settled in Burkina Faso². Given the increasing tensions in Mali in late 2012, the Burkinabe government requested that refugees located within 50km of the Malian border be relocated to camps in a more central location, in accordance with UNHCR protection standards.

As the crisis in Mali continued to unfold with the intervention of French troops, it became clear that a large number of Malian refugees in these consolidated camps would settle in Burkina Faso for the remainder of 2013. By the end of 2013, the situation in Mali had somewhat stabilized, but returning refugees still face insecurity and a lack of basic infrastructure and services in their homeland.

Project activities



Refugee committee election and meeting

various protection and community services in the camps, including services for people with

In 2013, IEDA Relief continued carry out the same responsibilities it had in 2012 and also on took on more responsibility within the camps with respect to the distribution and protection services. Thus, in 2013, IEDA Relief worked with UNHCR, WFP, CONAREF and other humanitarian partners in Burkina Faso to focus on three program types to serve the Malian refugee population and the surrounding host communities:

i. Camp management / camp coordination (CCCM) which included facilitating refugee settlement and resettlement to consolidated camps; building, improving and maintaining shelters and infrastructure in the camps; and maintaining and optimizing the organization's standards and operations as camp manager and coordinator.

ii. Community services, including implementing income-generating activities (IGAs) for refugee women; strengthening peaceful coexistence between refugees and the communities that host them; protecting children against exploitation and abuse; empowering women and raising awareness of SGBV; and establishing and maintaining

¹ OCHA Sahel Humanitarian Response Plan, Feb. 2014

² UNHCR Data: Mali Situation, April 2013.

special needs.

iii. **Distribution of food and non-food items (NFI)** to improve food security for refugees, using fair and transparent distribution standards and procedures to avoid theft and waste.

The Malian refugee population in Burkina Faso is diverse; the crisis caused young and old to flee their homeland, hailing from urban and rural settings and with various professions/ livelihoods and levels of education. Within the population there are a number of particularly vulnerable groups, including pregnant and lactating women, female heads of households, child-headed households, children separated from their families, unaccompanied children and the chronically ill and elderly. These vulnerable groups represented over 18% of all refugees in Burkina Faso and required extra attention when designing and implementing humanitarian programs.

Impact

Highlights of IEDA Relief's impact in Burkina Faso in 2013 include:

Objectives		Results
Camp Coordination & Camp Management (CCCM)	<p>Assisting with Level II and III registration to keep track of incoming and returning refugees and their needs</p> <p>Improving and maintaining camp infrastructure to ensure safety and organize access to basic services</p> <p>Establishing and supporting camp governance to ensure the refugee population's autonomy and provide a forum where they can express their needs and resolve their differences</p>	<p>49,975 refugees registered</p> <p>9302 refugees (3059 households) relocated from various spontaneous sites to consolidated Mentao and Goudoubo camps to meet UNHCR protection standards</p> <p>3785 plots drawn, allocated and addressed in camps</p> <p>34 pieces of infrastructure constructed and 67 pieces of infrastructure maintained in all refugee sites, including hangars, community centers, distribution centers, depots, latrines and drainage systems</p> <p>75 camp management meetings held in 2013</p> <p>12 Community Liaison Agents from refugee population recruited to facilitate communication with the community in camps</p> <p>3 refugee committee elections and 3 training workshops held for elected committee members to engage and represent the different groups within the refugee population</p>
Food Distribution & Food Security	<p>Improving food security and providing refugees with necessary non-food items</p>	<p>6617.9 tons of food distributed in camps and spontaneous sites between February and December 2013</p>

<p>Food Distribution & Food Security</p>	<p>Engaging the host population in distribution activities to facilitate peaceful coexistence</p>	<p>13 monthly food distributions and 6 NFI distributions in Goudoubo and Mentao camps and in Bobo-Dioulasso</p> <p>All new refugees provided with hot meals for 2 days before their plot allocation</p> <p>Improved technical methods such as scooping implemented to ensure adequate quantities according to refugees' calorie needs</p> <p>190 local laborers from the regional host population employed to serve the refugees during the monthly process of food and NFI distribution</p>
<p>Community services</p>	<p>Creating livelihood opportunities for women to help them use and hone their skills to care for their families and communities</p> <p>Maintaining protection and community services to access to basic needs and opportunities, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable people in each site</p> <p>Ensuring a healthy, peaceful camp environment through awareness and community building programs</p>	<p>401 women identified as beneficiaries of IGA funding, supported with IGA financing and trained in business practices</p> <p>2150 people with special needs identified, met with and oriented with regard to available services</p> <p>950 individuals and 60 families with special needs received services/aid, including 150 pregnant women</p> <p>25 football matches organized – 10 in Mentao, 10 in Goudebo, 8 in Sagnigniogo and 5 in Bobo-Dioulasso</p> <p>8100 trees planted during environmental workshops in Mentao, Damba and Gandafabou to restore camp environment</p> <p>5 days of celebration organized to raise awareness and bring refugees together, including International Women's Day, International AIDS Day and International Prevent Violence Against Women Day</p>

Number of beneficiaries

Age group	Men		Women		Total		Project sites: Goudebo, Mentao, Sagnigniogo, Bobo-Dioulasso, Déou, Dibissi, Tin Hejar, GoromGorom and Damba
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
0-4	3998	8	3798	7.6	7796	15.6	
5-11	6897	13.8	6397	12.8	13294	26.5	
12-17	3298	6.6	2899	5.8	6197	12.4	
18-59	10145	20.3	10595	21.2	20740	41.5	
60 +	1049	2.1	899	1.8	1948	3.9	
Total:	25387	50.8	24588	49.2	49975	100	

Partnership and program funding

In Burkina Faso, IEDA Relief operates under a sub-agreement with UNHCR and a tripartite agreement with UNHCR and the WFP. IEDA Relief also works closely with its Burkinabe government partner CONAREF and other implementing partners in each camp.



Thanks to IEDA Relief's IGA programs, these women feel more productive and important in their community. Activities such as raising goats and running a small store keep them busy and because of this activity they have learned to read and practice basic accounting.

Challenges, gaps & proposed activities for future intervention

The biggest challenges faced by the IEDA Relief team in Burkina Faso were:

- Ensuring food security , given the limited rations and existing food security challenges in the region;
- Funding sufficient income-generating activities for the camp population, particularly for women, youth and the elderly;
- Assuring the long-term resiliency of host communities to support the population and the environment surrounding the camp.

Proposed activities for future intervention include:

- Expand income-generating activities to more members of the refugee population;
- Add activities to increase awareness and enhance the capacity of the refugee population to prevent and combat malnutrition;
- Facilitate relocation and reintegration of refugees who wish to return to Mali;
- Support integration of Malian refugees who choose to stay in Burkina Faso;
- Facilitate transition from humanitarian services to sustainable development projects for the Burkinabe population

Recommendations

IEDA Relief continues to support the Malian refugee population in Burkina Faso through their camp management activities and various community/protection services, and plans to facilitate the return of refugees to their homeland if and when they are ready to leave. Additionally, IEDA Relief's activities will increasingly strive to meet the needs of the host population in Burkina Faso even after refugees have left the area.

General recommendations for activities going forward include:

- Work increasingly with regional IEDA Relief offices (e.g. Mali and Niger) to monitor and support the Malian refugees' return to their homeland in 2014 and 2015;
- Develop new programs focused on the Burkinabe population in partnership with government agencies and/or other local or international NGOs.

Stories from the field: Maïmouna, Edmond & Zié

Being part of the humanitarian response to the crisis in Mali has allowed us to discover a lot about Malian culture as well as the current situation in their homeland. To make sure we can establish relationships and communicate effectively with camp populations, we have started learning words in Tamasheq and Arabic.

Interacting with the Malian refugees in this way has enabled us, along with the rest of IEDA Relief's staff in Burkina Faso, to understand how we can best support this population. Understanding their customs – from traditional meals to family and community structures – ensures that we can plan and implement culturally sensitive activities that target the most vulnerable members of the population. For example, we have learned that there are important perceived differences that lead to discrimination within the population; women are often seen as lesser than men, and the indigenous Bella and darker-skinned Tuaregs tend to be considered inferior by the Arab and 'Red' Tuaregs. We were also surprised to learn that, rather than being a source of shame or disappointment, divorce can be a cause for celebration in the community. Although every day presents new challenges for us, we continue to learn from each other and work together to help the Malian refugee population in Burkina Faso overcome their obstacles and make the best of their current circumstances.

- Maïmouna Ouedraogo, Camp Manager, Sagnioigniogo, **Edmond Soro & Zié Ibrahim Achille Ouattara**, Program Assistants, Monitoring & Evaluation

The Burkina Faso country team

Country management Team

Phil Maanulwa, *Head of Mission*

Epiphane Lucien Yelome, *Operations Manager*

Kasuka Katembo, *Finance & Administration Officer*

Field management team

Justin Kantole, *Camp Management Program Officer*

Ibrahima Bangoura, *Community Services Officer*

Herve Mbouri, *Camp Field Support Officer*