MASSIVE DISPLACEMENT HITS IN THE BEGINNING OF LEAN SEASON

While the lean season has begun, the attack by a non-state armed group that hit the town of Seytenga in northern Burkina Faso on June 11 2022 killed at least 79 civilians and displaced more than 34,000 people.

This example illustrates an underlying trend: according to the Global Terrorism Index, Burkina Faso is the fourth most affected by terrorism country in the world. Out of a total of 732 terrorism-related deaths in 2021, more than 65% are civilians. These attacks lead to the massive displacement of rural populations to urban and peri-urban centres, causing a collapse in agricultural production. Currently, there are 1.9 million internally displaced people in the country, making Burkina Faso one of the fastest growing displacement crises in the world according to UNHCR.

Internal displacement impact on food security

Each internally displaced person means a decrease in the country’s agricultural productivity, less self-production, loss of livestock, more pressure on markets and natural resources (water, agricultural land and pasture), and higher dependence on agricultural imports and humanitarian aid in general. Thus, beyond their impact on access to food, the consequences of conflict and insecurity are increasingly affecting agricultural, processing and trading activities, which are the main sources of income in the affected areas.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, insecurity has led to a reduction in sown land of 412,000 hectares since the beginning of the conflict. National cereal production for the 2021-2022 campaign is estimated at less than 3% of the five-year average and 10% compared to last year.
FSC RESPONSE

The majority of IDPs from Seytenga have fled to the town of Dori, capital of the Sahel region. The town of Dori is already hosting nearly 67,000 IDPs (CONASUR) and 15,000 Malian refugees (UNHCR).

The FSC partners are mobilized to provide a coordinated and harmonized food and livelihoods response to the 34,000 newly displaced people in Seytenga and vulnerable residents in Dori. In order to provide a response adapted to the capacity of the markets, part of the response is provided in in-kind food assistance and the other through various cash modalities.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General - on Burkina Faso

The Secretary-General strongly condemns the appalling attack on the night of 11 June 2022 against the town of Seytenga, in the Sahel region of Burkina Faso, which resulted in the deaths of scores of civilians and the displacement of large numbers of people from their homes. The Secretary-General expresses his sincere condolences to the bereaved families of the victims, as well as to the people of Burkina.

The striking example of Seytenga should not make us forget that more than 400,000 people across the 5 priority regions are currently in isolated areas and cannot move to a safe place. These people are particularly vulnerable, and an urgent access solution must be found to provide them with humanitarian assistance.

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