

# Burkina Faso

## MIGRATION PROFILE

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*Study on Migration Routes  
in West and Central Africa*



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**Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (MGSoG)**



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# 1. Introduction

Burkina Faso is a country located in West Africa. The country borders Mali to the north, Benin to the southeast, Togo and Ghana to the south, Niger to the east, and Ivory Coast to the southwest. Limited national resources and a strong climate result in poor economic conditions for the majority of the Burkinabe population, which is estimated to be around 20 million (CIA, 2017). Being one of the poorest countries in the world and clustered by the United Nations in their Least Developed category, the Human Development Index (HDI) of Burkina Faso is extremely low with 0.402 in 2016. This places it at rank 185 out of 188 countries (UNDP, 2016). Unemployment rates of the total labour force were estimated to be 2.8 per cent in 2016, whereas the youth unemployment rates for the same year were assessed to be 4.87 per cent (World Bank, 2016b; World Bank, 2016c).



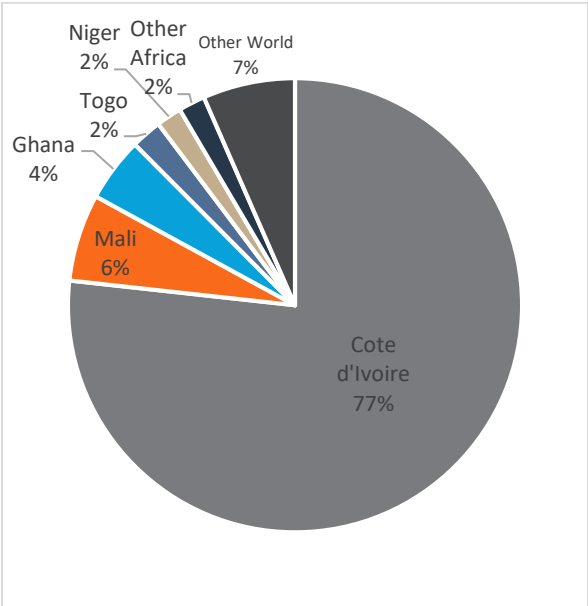
**Table 1: Burkina Faso Key Demographic and Development Indicators**

Indicator	Burkina Faso
Total area, in sq km <sup>a</sup>	274,200
Population (2017), in million <sup>a</sup>	20.11
Urban Population (2015), % of total <sup>b</sup>	20.9
Population Growth Rate, annual % <sup>c</sup>	2.9
Ethnic Groups <sup>a</sup>	Mossi 52.5% Fulani 8.4% Gurma 6.8% Bobo 4.8% Gurunsi 4.5% Senufo 4.4% Bissa 3.9% Other 19.1%
Human Development Index (2015), country rank out of 188 <sup>d</sup>	0.402 185
GDP Based on PPP per Capita, current international dollars per capita (2014) <sup>c</sup>	1,720.1
Life Expectancy at Birth (2015), years <sup>e</sup>	59.0
Unemployment (2015), % of labour force <sup>e</sup>	2.9
Youth Unemployment (2015), % ages 15-24 <sup>e</sup>	4.7
Multidimensional Poverty Headcount (2014), % <sup>e</sup>	82.8
Gini Coefficient (2010-2015) <sup>e</sup>	35.3
Foreign Direct Investment (net inflows, 2015), current USD millions <sup>c</sup>	167.4
Net Official Development Assistance Received (2015), current USD millions <sup>c</sup>	997.1
Personal Remittances Received (2015), current USD million <sup>c</sup>	395.78

<sup>a</sup> CIA, 2017; <sup>b</sup> World Bank, 2017a; <sup>c</sup> World Bank, 2017b; <sup>d</sup> UNDP, 2016a, <sup>e</sup> UNDP, 2016b

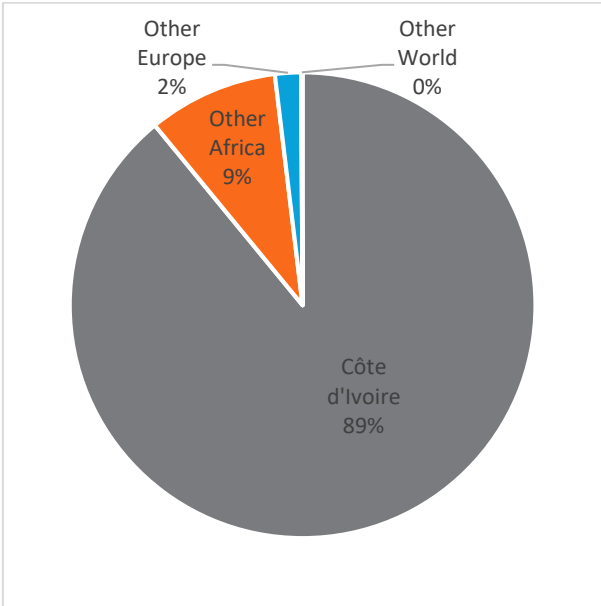
In terms of migration, Burkina Faso is at a crossroads between several coastal and landlocked countries in the Sahel region (IOM, 2017). As such, it is both a country of destination and transit for asylum seekers, refugees and economic migrants from neighbouring countries, such as the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Rwanda, Congo, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). While most migrants in Burkina Faso originate from neighbouring country Cote d'Ivoire, the influx of migrants from Mali should be noted. As an armed conflict broke out in 2012 and since the conflict endures, an influx of people continues to come into Burkina Faso seeking refuge (see Figure 1) (UN DESA, 2015)<sup>1</sup>. As for the emigrant stock, as shown in Figure 2, the top destination for Burkina Faso's migrants is Cote d'Ivoire (UN DESA, 2015). As such, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire both function as a destination and origin country for one another's migrant population. This can be explained by referring to historic ties, as both territories were previously part of France's West Africa. Also, regular migration in the context of seasonal work between the two countries happens frequently (Konseiga, 2003).

**Figure 1: Origin of Migrants in Burkina Faso, 2015**



Source: UN DESA, 2015

**Figure 2: Destination of Migrants from Burkina Faso, 2015**

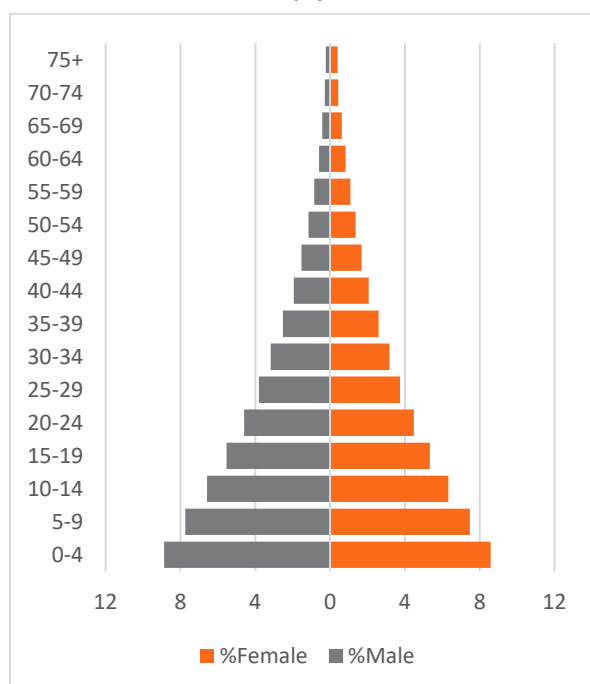


Source: UN DESA, 2015

Some interesting differences appear while comparing the population pyramids of the total population and migrant stock of Burkina Faso (Figure 3 and Figure 4, respectively). Figure 3 is comprised of a common pyramid form. Figure 4 similarly shows a typical pyramid shape concerning the migrant stock in Burkina Faso, but a significant decrease in migrant stock is noticeable in the youngest age group. The difference can possibly be explained by the deadly outbreak of meningitis in 2009 or the high number of children suffering from severe malnutrition (UNOCHA, 2016). Also, as regular migration for work purposes is common, the sharp decrease can possibly be explained.

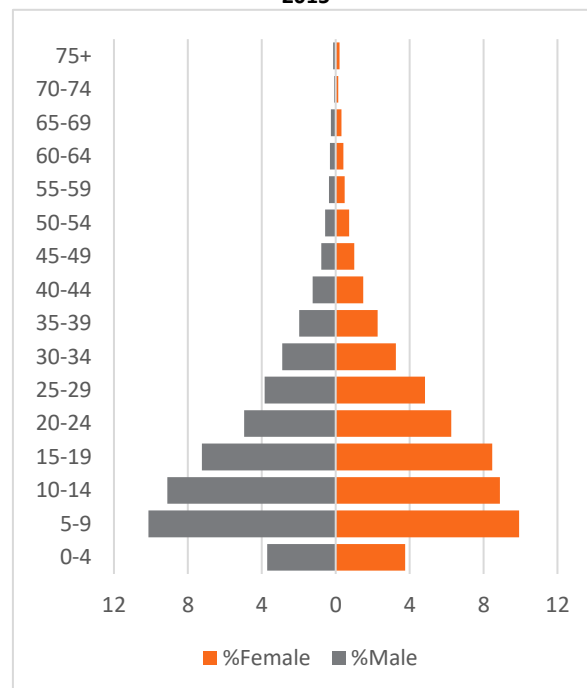
<sup>1</sup> Note that migration statistics from UN DESA (2015) illustrate mixed migration stocks and may include some, but not all, of refugees in/from a given country. For further information visit: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates15.shtml>

**Figure 3: Total Population in Burkina Faso by Age Group, 2015**



Source: UN DESA, 2015

**Figure 4: Migrant Stock in Burkina Faso by Age Group, 2015**



Source: UN DESA, 2015

## 2. Forced Migration/ Displacement

### 2.1. Refugees in Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso has hosted a relatively small group of refugees coming from neighbouring countries in the past, but as mentioned before, the country currently hosts a large group of refugees from Mali. As of May 2017, Burkina Faso is hosted approximately 33,000 people of concern (see Tables 2 & Table 3). The majority of these refugees came from Mali (98%), but they also originated from the Central African Republic (CAR) (1%) and Chad (1%) (UNCHR, 2017). The main cause of their displacement is the ongoing conflict in the Sahel region, which is also faced with other challenges as poverty, climate change, and a demographic explosion for the upcoming decades (Lanzer, 2016; UNOCHA, 2017). While there are limited sources available on the country's refugee population-recognition approach, the 2003 and 2005 UNCHR Statistical Yearbook showed no refugee statuses recognized on a prima-facie basis. Instead, 100 per cent were recognized on an individual basis. How and if this is currently done in a similar manner is unknown.

Most of the refugees (94.4%) in Burkina Faso are located in two camps, Mentao and Goudoubou, in the northern and more rural part of the country (UNHCR, 2017b; UNHCR, 2017c). Another UNHCR's refugee camp, located close to Burkina Faso's capital city Ouagadougou, was closed in 2015. Over 12,000 refugees have been relocated from camps or other sites near the border since 2012 due to increased levels of insecurity (UNHCR, 2013c). There are no recent numbers on the size of the refugee camps. A report by the UNCHR (2013) showed that these camps hosted respectively 16,546 and 10,363 refugees from Mali in 2013. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) (2015)

estimated that these numbers decreased to 11,000 and 9,000 in 2015. Most of the refugees in Burkina Faso are of the Tuareg ethnicity (Thomas, 2016). Given the prolonged crisis in Mali and the rest of the Sahel region and the harsh conditions in the camps due to climate change and a lack of sufficient natural resources, UNHCR declared to change its program from aiding with traditional assistance to livelihood activities (2017a). The growing food insecurity in the country also affects the refugee population to the extent that they are more likely to be stigmatized by the host community (UNHCR, 2017a).

**Table 2: Population of concern in Burkina Faso, May 2017**

<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>Population of concern</b>
Mali	33,501
CAR	364
Chad	125
Rwanda	49
Congo	42
Burundi	35
DRC	30
RCI	8
Other	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,199</b>

Source: UNHCR, 2017a

**Table 3: Burkina Faso's refugees and asylum seekers, May 2017**

<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>Refugees</b>	<b>Asylum Seekers</b>
Mali	32,059	
CAR	189	104
Chad	113	13
Rwanda	48	
Congo	43	
Burundi	31	
DRC	25	7
Other	30	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,538</b>	<b>131</b>

Source: UNHCR, 2017a

## 2.2. Refugees from Burkina Faso

As illustrated in Table 4, UNHCR (2016) published the different countries of asylum of Burkina Faso's population. Only the United States and European countries are included in the list (UNHCR, 2016); this is remarkable as Burkina Faso is part of ECOWAS, but its membership does not obstruct the Burkinabe population from international protection. Also, no kind of refugee deal between Burkina Faso with Europe or the United States can be found. Yet, it should also be noted that the total number of refugee and asylum seekers is low and almost negligible.

**Table 4: Burkina Faso's Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Country of Asylum, mid-year 2016**

<b>Country of Destination</b>	<b>Refugees</b>	<b>Asylum Seekers</b>
United States	959	2,184
Italy	835	493
France	132	202
Germany	41	311
Other	316	337
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>3,527</b>

Source: UNHCR, 2016

### 2.3. Internal Displacement in Burkina Faso

Despite the limited existence of information on the situation and protection needs of Burkina Faso's internally displaced persons (IDPs), there are some statistics available (IDMC, 2017a). The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) (2017a) approximates that between an estimated 2,000 to 4,000 people were internally displaced by conflict in Burkina Faso in the first half of 2017, whereas UNICEF estimates 1,378 IDPs in the Soum province in the Sahel region being affected alone in the same period (IDMC, 2017b; RMMS, 2017). The causes of internal displacement by (extremist) conflict include the deteriorating security situation in the northern region of Burkina Faso and post-election violence (IDMC, 2017b).

Also, since 2013, more Burkinabe have been affected with disaster displacement each year. This general trend is likely to continue based on looking at the increase of IDPs stock from 1,800 in 2013, to 3,700 in 2015, and to 18,000 IDPs in 2016 (IDMC, 2017a).

## 3. Regular/ Labour Migration

### 3.1. Immigration

The relevance of Burkina Faso in the context of labour immigration is limited. Burkina Faso can rather be characterised as a country of transit for migrants, who mainly come from Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Mali and are travelling towards Northern African or possibly European countries (Bolouvi, 2009). While the incidence of foreigners in Burkina Faso remains low, foreigners residing in the country are mostly from other ECOWAS Member States such as Mali, Togo, Niger, Nigeria and Benin (ICMPD & IOM, 2015). An analysis on the last held population census of 2006 (*Recensement général de la population et de l'habitation*) illustrated that, in 2009, there were 8,886 nationals from Mali, 3,668 nationals from Togo, 3,406 nationals from Niger, 3,019 nationals from Benin, and 2,762 nationals from Nigeria living in Burkina Faso (Dabire, Kone & Lougue, 2009; ILO Microdata Repository, 2017); this accounts for 21,741 foreigners in total.

Interestingly, the census showed that there is a slight difference in settlement locations of the immigrants. While many Malian, Nigerians and Beninese preferred residing in rural areas, most Togolese and Nigerians opted for urban areas (Dabire, Kone & Lougue, 2009; ICMPD & IOM, 2015). A similar distinction can be found in the social-demographic profile of the migrants: while relatively more

Malian and Togolese women migrated to Burkina Faso, generally the ratio between men and women is around 50-50 percent (Dabire, Kone & Lougue, 2009; ICMPD & IOM, 2015). Most labour immigrants are employed in the agricultural sector and, to a lesser extent, in the trade and craft sectors (ICMPD & IOM, 2015). It should be noted, however, that as the population census was last held in 2006, it is likely that the abovementioned statistics do not sufficiently denote contemporary ratios or the total amount of immigrants.

### **3.2. Emigration**

Even though there are no exact figures on the number of Burkinabe abroad, emigration has always been an important component of the country's demography (ICMPD & IOM, 2015). While the 2006 population census does not provide any satisfactory data, it was estimated by UNICEF (2013a) that Burkina Faso's migrant stock was approximately 1.6 million people, representing almost 10% of the total population of Burkina Faso, in 2013. The main countries of destination of Burkinabe migrants on the African continent are located nearby; specifically, they include Ghana, Mali, Benin, and Niger (World Bank, 2016a). Most people from Burkina Faso, however, migrate to one country of destination in particular: Cote d'Ivoire (ICMPD & IOM, 2015). Despite a lack of recent estimations on the exact number of the Burkinabe population in Cote d'Ivoire, both the UN Report on Trends in International Migrant Stock and UNICEF estimated a total of 1.5 million Burkinabe citizens in living Cote d'Ivoire in 2013 (UNICEF, 2013a).

Emigration to states outside of the ECOWAS community remains low. In 2012, 1,661 Burkinabe fled in 2012 after the outbreak of the Libyan civil war (Aghazarm, Quesada & Tishler, 2012). Other countries where some presence of Burkinabe is worth mentioning are Italy (13,501), France (3,505), Germany (1,254), and Spain (1,267) (ICMPD & IOM, 2015). Though most Burkinabe emigrants live in Africa, the majority of remittances sent by emigrants back to Burkina Faso come from people outside of the continent (Ratha et al., 2011). Data from the World Bank (2017) shows a significant increase of inflows: US\$57 million in 2005, US\$ 120 million in 2010, and a total of US\$ 392 million in remittances in 2015; looking at this general trend, it is likely that the inflow of remittances is going to continue and be even more important for Burkina Faso's economy.

## **4. Internal Migration**

Missing data on internal migration in Burkina Faso challenge the establishment of specific internal migration trends. The 2014 Revision of the United Nations World Urbanization Prospects reveals that Burkina Faso was globally seen as one of the least urbanized countries, with a mere 13.8 per cent of its population being urban in 1990 (UNDESA, 2014). While most Burkinabe continue to reside in rural areas and Burkina Faso has a low occurrence of internal migration, Burkina Faso was declared to be one of the fastest urbanizing countries between 1990 and 2014, with a 3.1% urbanization rate (Konseiga, 2005; Brücker & Gemenn, 2013; UNDESA, 2014). UNDESA (2014) expects this increase in urbanization to continue with an estimated rise of 1.6% between 2014 and 2050. The current population living in urban areas in Burkina Faso has risen to 20.9% (UNDESA, 2014). Rural migration to the country's capital Ouagadougou, or other urban areas within the country, is likely to increase as the vulnerability of Burkina Faso's rural population is sensitive to several recurring natural hazards. As such, rural to urban migration is likely to be Burkina Faso's main pattern of internal migration. It should



be noted however that due constraints on the data collection it is not known to what extent other patterns of internal migration exist.

## 5. Irregular Migration

Located between land-locked and coastal countries, Burkina Faso functions as a crossroads between many West African neighbours (IOM, 2017). While the ongoing unrest in the Sahel region increases the influx of irregular migrants, the government of Burkina Faso is generally faced with challenges due to the position of the country as a source, transit and destination country for sex trafficking and forced labor. Women who think they are being smuggled from Africa to Europe or the United States often end up involuntarily in Burkina Faso's capital Ouagadougou instead (Briggs, 2012a). The country is part of two larger migration networks, and it functions as a transit country for both the western route and central route to Europe (Reitano, Adal & Sha, 2014). Irregular migrants passing through Burkina Faso taking the western route originate for most part from other West African countries as Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire, whereas migrants taking the central route and pass through Burkina Faso mostly originate from Ghana. Both routes finally end in Tripoli, Libya (Reitano, Adal & Sha, 2014). Due to the Burkina Faso's long border (3,200km) with six different neighboring countries, strict border control is difficult. Additionally, Burkina Faso can only rely on 300 border officials working in 19 border stations; international organizations, such as IOM, are also committed to fighting document fraud and simultaneously strengthening Burkina Faso's border control (Reitano, Adal & Sha, 2014; IOM, 2017). Moreover, as an ECOWAS member state, migration from other ECOWAS member states to Burkina Faso, or vice versa, is regular rather than irregular.

### 5.1. Human Smuggling

According to UNDOC (2017a), migrant smuggling is defined as "a crime involving the procurement for financial or other material benefit of illegal entry of a person into a State of which the person is not a national or a resident." Smuggling differs from human trafficking in three main ways having to do with consent, exploitation, and transnationality. More specifically, this means that migrants engage with their smugglers in a consensual manner; smuggling also occurs transnationally and ends upon arrival at the destination. Victims of trafficking, however, are typically trafficked against their will or have been coerced into giving consent and must endure ongoing exploitation. Moreover, trafficking can occur both internally and internationally across borders (UNDOC, 2017a).

Due to a consistent lack of data on Burkina Faso's human smuggling, this section is limited. The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, however, does provide some insights into the smuggling networks of Burkina Faso (Reitano, Adal & Sha, 2014). As previously mentioned, Burkina Faso acts as a transit country for both the western and central route to Europe. Most of the migrants taking the western route come from either Senegal, Guinea, or Mali, whereas citizens of Nigeria, Ghana, and Niger tend to take the central route (Reitano, Adal & Sha, 2014). Burkinabe, specifically the Bissa ethnic group who live in Centre-Est region, also migrate irregularly to Europe (Reitano, Adal & Sha, 2014). While the majority of the Burkinabe people returns to Burkina Faso with nothing after having paid between \$6,000 to \$10,000 to a smuggler, migration facilitated by smuggling continues to be attractive; this is largely because between 5 and 10 percent of irregular migrants return 'wealthy' according to the average standards (Reitano, Adal & Sha, 2014). It should be noted that, while the

report does not provide any data on the exact journey and/or routes of migrants using the services of smugglers, it is mentioned that travel documents, air tickets and support with job hunting are included in the total sum (Reitano, Adal & Sha, 2014).

## **5.2. Trafficking in Human Beings**

According to the Trafficking in Persons Report by the US Department of State (2017), Burkina Faso is considered a source, transit, and destination country for children and women who are subjected to human trafficking for the main purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labour. Due to its illicit nature, data on the exact number of victims of trafficking (VoTs) is limited. As tightened border controls in neighbouring countries or elsewhere on the continent have erupted, a further increase in human trafficking is expected as well (Briggs, 2012a; Briggs, 2012b). The US Department of State (2017) has found there to be a three-fold increase in the number of trafficking victims in Burkina Faso in 2016 when compared to the previous year. Specifically, there were an estimated 1,407 potential trafficking victims in 2016 compared to 400 potential victims in the earlier reporting period (US Department of State, 2017). The national government of Burkina Faso is to a certain extent involved in the combat against trafficking, but corruption is rife. Instead, charities such as the African Solidarity Association, Africans Unite Against Child Abuse, and the Red Cross are reporting the wrongs and doing their best to help the victims (Briggs, 2012b).

Despite efforts by the Burkinabe government, the US Department of State (2017) downgraded Burkina Faso from Tier 2 in 2016 to Tier 2 Watch List in the Trafficking in Persons Report 2017. This is in largely due to the government not sufficiently complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, not addressing (child) forced begging by religious instructors, not prosecuting or convicting any traffickers, and not allocating funding for victim activities (US Department of State, 2017). As a consequence, many victims continue to be exposed to re-trafficking dangers (US Department of State, 2017). Depending on the actions of the national government in the coming years, it is likely that Burkina Faso will be upgraded again as happened previously in 2016. Still, it should be noted that, since 2010, Burkina Faso has always been listed in Tier 2; being upgraded merely entails being listed back to Tier 2 (US Department of State, 2017).

In general, human trafficking in Burkina Faso is both a national and international phenomenon. Native Burkinabe boys and girls, as well as refugees and other foreign children that become VoTs, are forced to work as domestic and agricultural workers, street vendors, gold panners and washers in artisanal mines (US Department of State, 2017). In addition, they are often forced into sex work (Briggs, 2012a; Briggs, 2012b). Burkinabe or foreign children have also been found to be trafficked to neighbouring countries as Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, and Niger for similar purposes, namely forced labour and sex work (US Department of State, 2017). Similarly, but to a lesser extent, women are subjected to the same dangers. By being promised allegedly legitimate employment in various European or Middle Eastern countries, women end up working in forced prostitution, domestic enslavement or labour in restaurants (US Department of State, 2017).

Due to the illegal nature of these trafficking practices, much information on such incidences cannot be obtained. VoTs often do not want to identify themselves as such as government officials rarely report such issues. The government of Burkina Faso reacted to the reports of abuses of migrants and

trafficking incidences by increasing its anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts (ICMPD & IOM, 2015; US Department of State, 2017). A newly introduced anti-trafficking law bans all forms of trafficking in Burkina Faso: Law No. 11-2014/NA criminalizes child prostitution and the trade of children to a greater extent than the 2000 UN TIP Protocol (US Department of State, 2017). Moreover, the national government adopted a law against violence against women and girls in 2015 (US Department of State, 2017). Trafficking risks for IDP's or refugees specifically are not included in the Trafficking in Persons Report 2017

## **6. Migrant's Vulnerabilities and Protection Issues**

The following main vulnerabilities and protection issues have been identified in the case of Burkina Faso. These vulnerabilities arise largely from natural hazards, issues of food security, severe malnutrition, increased insecurity, and a lack of access to services. The aforementioned vulnerabilities to trafficking should also not be forgotten; Burkina Faso remains on the Tier Two Watch List despite its anti-trafficking efforts, leaving vulnerable members of the population at risk of trafficking (US Department of State, 2017). Firstly, the population of Burkina Faso is subjected to several chronic and recurring (natural) hazards with severe consequences as depredations of droughts, floods and epidemics. According to INFORM's Index for Risk Management, the Burkinabe are affected by droughts, which subsequently impact agricultural activities and endanger the economy of the country (CIA, 2017; INFORM, 2017). As the agricultural sector is the primary source of income and sustains approximately 80% of the population, an estimated 213,000 Burkinabe will face serious food insecurity this year alone (UNOCHA, 2017). Especially large parts of Burkina Faso's northern region are affected with and pressured by food insecurity (ACAPS, 2017a; ACAPS, 2017b). As a consequence, in eight out of thirteen regions in the country, Burkinabe suffer from severe malnutrition and surpass the Malnutrition Emergency Threshold of the United Nations (UNOCHA, 2017). Especially in the western Boucle du Mouhoun region, 32,000 children alone are said to be suffering from severe malnutrition (UNOCHA, 2017). It is also reported that, within Burkina Faso's northern region's Nord, Centre-Nord and Sahel, 64,000 children suffer from malnutrition (UNOCHA, 2017).

Furthermore, the political and military crisis in neighbouring country Mali has spilled violence into the rather stable Burkina Faso (ACAPS, 2017). Increased banditry and extremist violence in the Sahel region and in Burkina Faso's capital Ouagadougou worsen the overall security situation in the country (UNHCR, 2016). As the police and army are also targeted, humanitarian access to and the safety of refugees living outside of refugee camps cannot be guaranteed (UNCHR, 2016; UNOCHA, 2017). It is suspected that the Ansarul Islam group, a new armed group with ties to the Malian Ansar Dine movement, is to be behind several terrorist attacks; for example, the group is suspected to be responsible for the death of twelve soldiers at the Nassoumbou military base in December 2016 and the death of eighteen people in Ouagadougou in August 2017 (ACAPS, 2017a; ACAPS, 2017b; IDMC, 2017b). The reestablishment of a Fulani Kingdom within the Sahel region appears to be the aim of the armed group (ACAPS, 2017b). Also important to note, a study on the structural vulnerabilities of Burkina Faso showed that the country is especially vulnerable in the context of access to services (Chrevier & Millogo, 2015). Additionally, Burkina Faso's risk of a humanitarian crisis and disaster is measured as high by INFORM, with a ranking of 5.4 out of 10 (ACAPS, 2017a; INFORM, 2017). While the country is affected by the abovementioned problems nation-wide, Chrevier & Millogo (2015)

concluded that the top 15 most vulnerable communes in Burkina Faso are all located in the Sahel region.

## 7. Relevant National Policies and Stakeholders

Burkina Faso’s migration policy framework is rather limited. A lack of comprehensiveness and supplementary policy developments hinder the establishment of an official migration policy. However, a National Migration Strategy covering the years 2014-2025 was drafted in order to fill the missing gaps (ICMPD & IOM, 2015). The document still has to be formally adopted by the Council of Ministers of Burkina Faso (ICMPD & IOM, 2015). Generally, Burkina Faso has ratified all the main international conventions which protect human rights and migrants’ rights including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), and 39 ILO Conventions: including the ILO Conventions on migrant workers C 97 (1949) and C 143 (1975), The Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (1990), and the United Nations Migrant Workers Convention (1990), the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000), and the UN Human Trafficking Protocol as well as the United Nations Human Smuggling Protocol (2000) (ICMPD & IOM, 2015). Besides these global conventions and UN protocols, the country is also bound by African legislation, such as ECOWAS’ founding treaty (1975) and all subsequent protocols concerning residence and the free movement of persons. Old bilateral agreements with Cote d’Ivoire (1960), Niger (1964), and Mali (1969) are no longer regarded as valid (ICMPD & IOM, 2015).

Burkina Faso’s institutional framework on migration is foremost undertaken by the following governmental stakeholders: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation (emigration policy), the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Security (management of immigration), the Ministry of Public Employment, Labour, and Social Security (certification of work contracts of foreigners), the Ministry of Economy and Finances (developing National Migration Strategy), the Ministry of Women, National Solidarity, and Family (anti-trafficking committee), as well as the Ministry of Women and Gender Affairs (promotion of women and gender rights) (ICMPD & IOM, 2015). It should be noted that Art. 596 of Burkina Faso’s penal code prohibits slavery, whereas Art. 597 and 653 prohibit the trafficking of women and children. Also, despite being one of the poorest countries in the world, Burkina Faso is said to accept the resettlement of refugees as part of ‘burden sharing in the framework of inter-African solidarity to which it has constantly been attached’ (Government of Burkina Faso, 2002). Lastly, dual citizenship is permitted in Burkina Faso (Bronwen, 2010).

**Table 3: Burkina Faso’s Key Migration Policy Response**

Policy	Content
<b>Ordinance No. 84-49 of 4 August 1984 setting conditions of</b>	Stipulates that immigration to Burkina Faso is subject to the delivery of a visa and a stay permit, with the exception of nationals from certain states that enjoy preferential treatment (Art. 3; Art. 5). The stay

<b>entry, residence, and exit for Burkina Faso citizens and foreign nationals</b>	permit is to be requested after entry on the national territory, within the first 15 days of stay (Art. 6).
<b>Labour Code (2008)</b>	Sets forth the regulations concerning a migrant's work contract. Moreover, stipulates the equal treatment of foreign workers with Burkinabe nationals. Equal treatment within trade unions are not included in this agreement.
<b>Law No. 029-2008 on Trafficking in Persons and Assimilated Practices</b>	Defines trafficking according to the Palermo Protocol, provides regulation and punishments for 'classical trafficking' and exploitation of begging, and acknowledges the possibility to obtain residence in Burkina Faso when being a victim of trafficking. Also, defines punishment of falsification of travel documents and/or visas.
<b>Regulation No. 98 of 15 February 1967 on conditions of employment and modalities of declaration of workers movements</b>	Defines the regulations for foreign workers and sets forth legislation concerning irregular stay and deportation.
<b>ZATU (Law) ANV No 28/FP/PRES of 3 August 1988 on the status of refugees in Burkina Faso</b>	Sets forth the regulations related to the granting of and loss of refugee status.
<b>Loi N°042-2008/An Portant Statut Des Refugies Au Burkina Faso</b>	Defines refugee rights in Burkina Faso. (Note: document is in French).
<b>Règlement intérieur de la Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés 1997</b>	Prescribes the function of the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés. (Note: document is in French).
<b>Law on the Fight Against Trafficking Of Persons and Similar Practices No. 029-2008/AN</b>	Defines human trafficking and exploitation; lays out the penalties for trafficking offences to strengthen the existing penal code (5-10 years imprisonment; severe cases: 10-20 years imprisonment or life imprisonment); defines exploitation for begging and penalties for the offences to strengthen the existing penal code (2-5 years imprisonment, and/or fines of up to 2,000,000 francs CFA); defines illicit trafficking in migrants and the penalties for the offences to strengthen the existing penal code (5-10 years imprisonment); provides rules for the procedure and protection of victims and witnesses.
<b>Constitution Burkina Faso 1991 (rev. 2012)</b>	Article 2 prohibits slavery.
<b>Penal Code</b>	Art. 596 prohibits slavery, while Art. 597 and 653 prohibit the trafficking of women and children.
<b>Coordinated Border Management</b>	Seeks to coordinate border management between Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso; contributes to 'the welfare and safety of cross border populations and migrants'; Drafted in cooperation with IOM, funded by the Government of Japan

Sources: ICMPD & IOM, 2015

## Gaps

Generally, there is lack of (recent) data on Burkina Faso's migration patterns (particularly in terms of emigration, internal migration, and internal displacement), thus limiting the extent of this migration

profile. As previously mentioned, the national government of Burkina Faso is trying to fulfil its obligations stemming from its migration policy framework. However, it has not done so sufficiently and needs to do so to a greater extent. The signing of the UN Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling Protocol, for example, does not prevent irregular migration from happening as long as the 3,200km long border of Burkina Faso is only protected by 19 border control posts and 300 border employees (Reitano, Adal & Sha, 2014; IOM, 2017). The national government of Burkina Faso tried to halt (forced) child labour by adopting a national plan, but without the allocation of funding, so a plan could not be effectively implemented. Moreover, while an overarching migration policy is missing, the existing legislation lacks a link to migration and development and emigration policies.

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