

## Temporary Shelters, Improved Health & Education

**Themes:** Shelter / refugees, Education, Health  
Timeline: 6 months to 2 years

**Country:** Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger

Key objectives:

- Provision of shelter for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
- Improving the availability and quality of primary education and health services

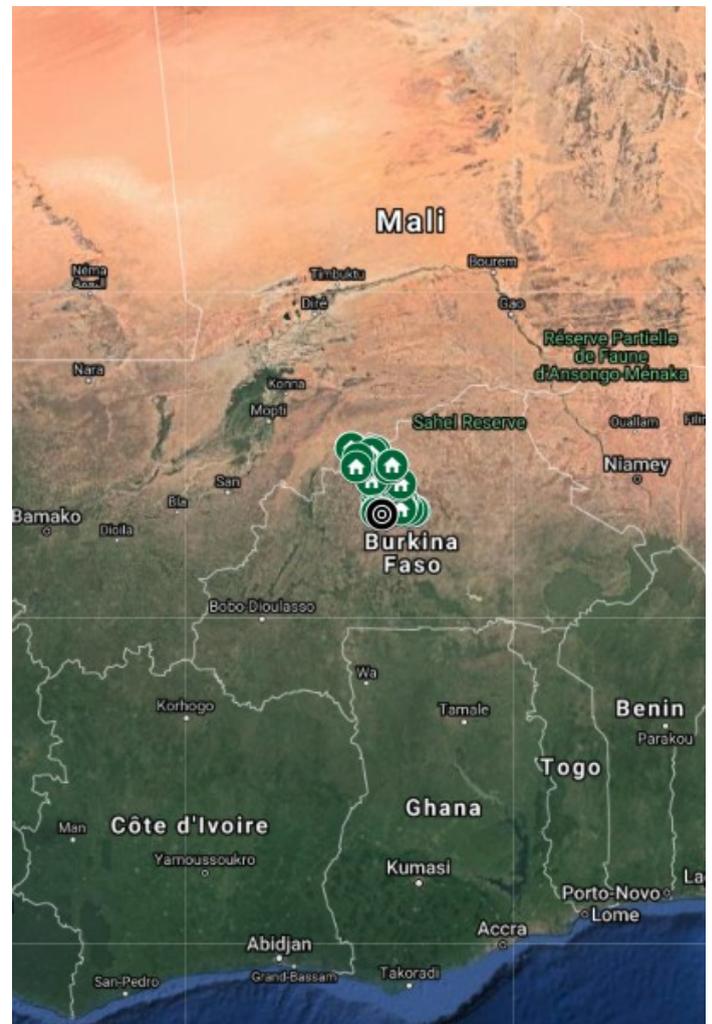
Key activities:

- Increasing the supply of affordable housing for IDPs or families hosting IDPs
- Improving the availability and quality of primary education through construction of schools, and the purchase of necessary equipment)
- Improving the availability and quality of health care services (construction of 2 maternity blocks and 4 houses for medical personnel, and the purchase of necessary equipment along with compensatory courses for local midwives)
- Vocational Training and creation of new job opportunities (employment of 330 or more local bricklayers).

All the structures budgeted for under the project will be built by using the so-called Nubian Vault (NV) technique, considered to be optimally adapted to the sub-Saharan climate and the economic situation of the country. Originating in Nubia (now Upper Egypt), the technique enables the construction of buildings with vaulted roofs without timber framework or shuttering. Nubian vaults are aesthetic and extremely resistant to the elements, have natural thermal and acoustic insulation, and are built with locally available materials (earth for making both mortar and mud bricks dried in the sun), without the use of timber, rebar and cement. A properly maintained NV house can be passed on from generation to generation. The most ancient NV mud brick, in Luxor, are still standing over 3,300 years after their construction. Nubian vaults represent a sustainable and affordable alternative to the roofing sheets (corrugated iron) that are today widespread in Africa.

### Project rationale:

Burkina Faso is one of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) in the world, where poverty remains endemic, and almost half of the population live on less than \$1.25 a day. The country's economic growth is being hampered by environmental and demographic factors. The Burkinabe economy is heavily reliant on agriculture, with close to 80% of the active population employed in the sector. However, the desertification of the region, caused by increased global temperatures, and frequent droughts have reduced agricultural productivity. Per capita food production has been declining, and the country has



Current PCPM operations in Burkina Faso



One of over 60 houses financed by PCPM in Burkina Faso and constructed in 2018.

struggled to retain food self-sufficiency.

Despite chronic undernourishment and widespread poverty, the population of Burkina Faso, which is currently estimated at 20 million, has been increasing at a galloping pace. According to UN estimates, the country will be home to more than 42 million people by 2050. Rapid population growth has outstripped the government's ability to create jobs, thus leading to a widening gap between the rising labor force and available employment. This dangerous trend largely affects youth under 25 years of age, which constitutes 65% of the overall population. Hungry, frustrated, and with no prospect of taking up paid work, young Burkinabe are at risk of socioeconomic marginalization, involvement in criminal activity or religion-inspired extremism. Many decide to go out on a limb and leave the country in search of opportunities and a brighter future elsewhere.

In addition to chronic economic woes, Burkina Faso is currently grappling with an unprecedented humanitarian emergency due to a sudden escalation of violence. The country has been plagued by terrorist attacks from various Islamic groups, seeking to extend their influence over the Sahel. That, in turn, has reignited longstanding tensions between Burkinabe communities as certain groups are blamed for collaborating with the jihadists. The violence is driving forced displacement and increasing the number of people in need of assistance and protection. Almost a million of Burkina Faso's residents have been uprooted from their homes.

**Related PCPM activities:**

The Polish Center for International Aid (PCPM) is the largest Polish secular non-governmental organization, in terms of its annual cash flow and number of field-based missions, providing foreign humanitarian and development assistance. A highly successful pilot project implemented in Burkina Faso in 2018 has prompted PCPM to intensify its efforts in tackling the root causes of outward migration in the country.



Interior of a Nubian Vault Ceiling house.



Classroom in a school built in Nubian Vault technology.

Indicative project budget:

Budget line (all costs with operations and admin costs)	Amount (USD)
Construction of 10 houses	\$28,000
Construction of 100 houses	\$280,000
Construction of one school with equipment and teachers' housing	\$76,000
Construction of one health care center with equipment and staff housing	\$71,000

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