



Rising waters of the Mouhoun River disrupting traffic on National Road 1

Appeal: MDRBF022	DREF Allocated: CHF 80,000	Hazard: Flood	Country: Burkina Faso
Population at risk (if available): -	Operation Start Date: 25-07-2025	Operation End Date: 30-09-2025	
Event Onset: Sudden	Forecasted day of event (or peak): 2025-08-15	Operation Timeframe: 45 days	

Targeted Regions: **Boucle Du Mouhoun, Centre-Nord, Est, Hauts-Bassins**

Scenario analysis

When and where is the hazard expected to happen?

According to the July 2025 hydrological forecasts (SAPCI, DGRE, MEEA, 2025), increasing water flows are expected in several basins nationwide, particularly in the Diamangou sub-basin (Niger Basin), the Nouaho watershed (Nakanbé Basin), the Sourou sub-basin (Mouhoun Basin), and part of the Léraba sub-basin. Continental Hazard Outlook (July 22–26, 2025) issued by ACMAD, indicates that the Western part of the country may receive moderate to very heavy rainfall, with accumulated precipitation between 50 mm and over 150 mm likely over the period. With expected impact of floods, include an important risk for riverine flooding and soil erosion for the riverine areas where water are already above the river basin.

For 2025, joint agro-hydro-climatic forecasts from AGRHYMET, the National Meteorological Agency (ANAM), and the Directorate General of Water Resources (DGRE) predict a generally normal to above-normal rainy season across Burkina Faso, with a 45% with higher cumulative rainfall in July, August and September. Peaks are forecasted between mid to the end of August and mid-September. These rainfall conditions come with a high risk of extreme events such as heavy rains, flash floods, and violent winds.

The above forecasts emphasize the alert that was already raised for the August, September, and October period which correspond to a high-risk period for floods in Burkina Faso, especially in areas along the Mouhoun River. The provinces of Mouhoun, Balé, Ioba, Houet, and Tuy are regularly exposed to flooding caused by the overflow of the Mouhoun River and its tributaries. Given that water levels have already risen above the river basin since mid-July, the predicted forecasts are likely to materialize.

Hydrological forecasts also indicate that river flows in the country's main basins (Mouhoun, Nakanbé, Comoé, Niger) are likely to range from above-normal to normal, with at least a 40% probability, significantly increasing the risk of localized or widespread flooding. These forecasts align with the pre-triggering indicators of the Flood Contingency Plan currently under validation, which recommend preparedness activities.

This increasing water volume could lead to moderate to severe floods in the affected areas. As a result, the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Sanitation calls on the population, especially those living in high-risk areas, to exercise increased vigilance. It also urges local authorities and decentralized technical services to strengthen their monitoring systems in coordination with risk management structures. Boucle Du Mouhoun, Centre-Nord, Est, Hauts-Bassins

Explain the underlying vulnerabilities and risks the hazard poses for at-risk communities?

Burkina Faso has started to see overflow of river water in the past days. With the expected forecasts, it is likely that the floods will expand and severe impact may be witness for the riverine communities. The predicted risk is analyzed based on current forecasts but also estimated scenario based on historical impact of riverine floods during similar period in the recent years.

Historically, floods have had a profound humanitarian and economic impact.

- The most catastrophic event occurred on 1 September 2009, when 262 mm of rainfall in a single day led to the deaths of 47 people and affected over 150,000. This disaster prompted a significant humanitarian response, including nearly CHF 3.5 million mobilized by the Burkinabe Red Cross Society (CRBF). Since then, flooding has become a near-annual concern, particularly affecting the Eastern, North-Central, Sahel, and Boucle du Mouhoun regions. Between 2012 and 2021 alone, over 458,000 people were impacted nationwide, with 27,202 homes damaged and 217 deaths reported (SP/CONASUR).
- In 2020, more than 126,000 people were affected, 41 lives were lost, and thousands of homes were destroyed. That same year, over 20,000 people were newly displaced due to flooding—many of them in areas already hosting internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing insecurity.

In Burkina, IDPs remain among the most vulnerable to flooding, include the projected floods of July-August 2025. Often residing in precarious shelters and flood-prone locations. In 2020, flooding damaged over 1,790 emergency shelters and injured 24 displaced persons (DREF MDRBF015). In 2024, torrential rains in Boulssa caused seven fatalities (including three children), injured 42 people, and destroyed 925 homes, affecting more than 7,600 individuals (DREF MDRBF019). Similarly, in August 2024, severe riverine floods struck the villages of Hèrèdougou and Goro (Pâ municipality), directly affecting at least 800 people and further eroding access to water, healthcare, and food.

Flooding also poses significant secondary risks, particularly to public health and food security. Stagnant water and damaged sanitation systems create fertile ground for outbreaks of waterborne and vector-borne diseases such as cholera, malaria, and dengue. The destruction of homes, schools, health centers, roads, and markets further paralyzes local economies and undermines livelihoods.

Despite these recurring disasters, CRBF's ability to respond remains constrained. The national flood contingency plan remains



unvalidated, and financial and logistical capacities are insufficient. The support from DREF is therefore necessary to support preparedness and early action, mitigate the anticipated impact of floods during the ongoing rainy season, and safeguard lives and livelihoods.

Source Name	Source Link
1. DREF Operation MDRBF019	https://reliefweb.int/report/burkina-faso/burkina-faso-floods-dref-operation-mdrbf019
2. National Multi-Hazard Preparedness and Disaster Response Plan, Burkina Faso, 2009	https://disasterlaw.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/media/disaster_law/2020-08/burkinafasoPlan.pdf

[Supporting Documentation](#)

Plan

Which of the expected severe humanitarian impacts of the hazard are your actions addressing? Why were these impacts chosen?

i) Injuries, loss of life

Following sudden flooding in areas not evacuated or in the absence of early warning, population are exposed to floods. In areas isolated or with limited support for evacuation or limited information on the early warning systems, families are exposed to injuries and sometimes loss of life.

ii) Destruction of crops, food stocks, and grazing areas:

This impact was highlighted because these elements constitute the communities' main sources of livelihood and are among the most affected during floods.

iii) Increase in waterborne and vector-borne diseases:

Studies conducted among communities and technical services indicate that flood periods tend to increase the prevalence of waterborne and vector-borne diseases. Factors contributing to this include contamination of drinking water sources, mosquito proliferation, and the spread of other pathogens. Higher risks being for Malaria, Meningitis (based on ACMAD).

iv) Pollution of water sources:

Water source contamination is a major issue that can have serious consequences for public health and the environment, particularly for people consuming water from rivers, ponds, and traditional wells. Pollutants may come from mining sites (both artisanal and industrial), agricultural activities (pesticides, fertilizers), destroyed sanitation infrastructure, household waste, and more. This pollution poses a potential disaster risk.



v) Destruction of shelters, sanitation infrastructure, and water supply systems:

In the event of riverine floods, shelters, sanitation facilities, and water supply systems are likely to be damaged. This may lead to their collapse, causing loss of human life.

[National Society developed contingency plans, or recently carried out PER assessment Document](#)



Proposed Actions

	Sector	Activities	Budget (CHF)
 Early Actions	DRR	1) Early warning Community awareness-raising on flood risks. Dissemination of flood alerts. Broadcasting of radio spots on flood risks. 2) Procurement and distribution of sandbags for the protection of shelters and livelihoods for 250 households. 3) Support for the organization of coordination meetings with authorities and technical services in at-risk provinces. 4) Monitoring of the Mouhoun River floods. • Total budget for the early actions to be around CHF 50,000.	CHF 56,213
	NS Strengthening	1) Training of 40 volunteers on flood risks. 2) Training and establishment of 10 emergency response teams. 3) Volunteers' insurance • Total budget for the early actions to be around CHF 6,250.	
 Early Response	DRR	Rapid needs assessment Lesson workshop • Total budget for the early response to be around CHF 8,000	CHF 18,787
	NS Strengthening	Vehicle fuel Project manager's salary Vehicle rental Staff communication • Total budget for the early response to be around CHF 8,000 Activity monitoring	
	Health (public)	Deployment of volunteers for the psychological care of flood-affected individuals and evacuation. • Total budget for the early response to be around CHF 2,700.	
Sub-total			CHF 75,000
Indirect Cost			CHF 5,000

Total	CHF 80,000
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