**ShelterBox Update** *July 2021*

Our response in Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso is one of the fastest-growing displacement crises in Africa. Since 2015, there has been an increase in violence from Jihadist groups spreading across the Sahel region, including Burkino Faso, Mali, and Niger. It is estimated that about 2.5 million people have been forced to flee their homes, and at least 13.4 million require humanitarian assistance.

Some families who have fled their homes are able to stay with their friends and relatives, but many reside in crowded camps and buildings such as schools. The increasing number of displaced families has led to increased poverty, food insecurity, and unemployment.

The instability, insecurity, and the pandemic present in Burkina Faso have also made it difficult for aid workers to reach displaced families. ShelterBox has partnered with Help to support vulnerable families. Since 2020, ShelterBox has supported families by providing tarpaulins, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, blankets, water carriers, mosquito nets, solar lights, sleeping mats, and other essential items.

Rihanata’s family is one of the 900 families who received an aid kit from ShelterBox. Rihanata and her family were forced to flee their home and take refuge in another village with only one makeshift shelter made from plastic bags. After receiving a Household Item Kit from ShelterBox, they have been able to live more comfortably.

“We fled in broad daylight to save our lives when armed men burst into our village and forced us to leave and seek refuge in another village. When we arrived, we didn’t know where to take shelter, so the three of us set up the tent here. When it rained, we were on our feet, afraid. When it stopped raining we took out all our waterlogged belongings to dry. We really didn’t know where to go. It was hard because there wasn’t even space. To lie down to sleep, we had to fold in four. So, we were overjoyed when we were given an emergency shelter built by Help with the support of ShelterBox. We feel more at ease now.” - Rihanata

To learn more about our response in Burkina Faso, you can visit: <https://www.shelterbox.org/where-we-work/burkina-faso-conflict/>