



Cross -national grassroots analysis of the impact of political conflict on the organisation and delivery of social services

Internally Displacement associated with conflict
and violence: the case in Burkina Faso

“May our African Ancestors continue centering us to do worthy works” (Somnoma Valerie Ouedraogo)

This PowerPoint was presented by Dr. Valerie Ouedraogo during the blended format symposium hosted by Center for Social Work Innovation and Research (CSWIR University of Sussex) titled Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) by conflicts and violence (April 10-11, 2024) coordinated by co-primary applicant Dr. Reima Ana Maglajlic.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/universityofsussex14/1190443>

I acknowledge my African ancestors, people, and communities in and outside the African continent for the victories, successes, and harmony they have been contributing to humanity and the natural world for centuries.

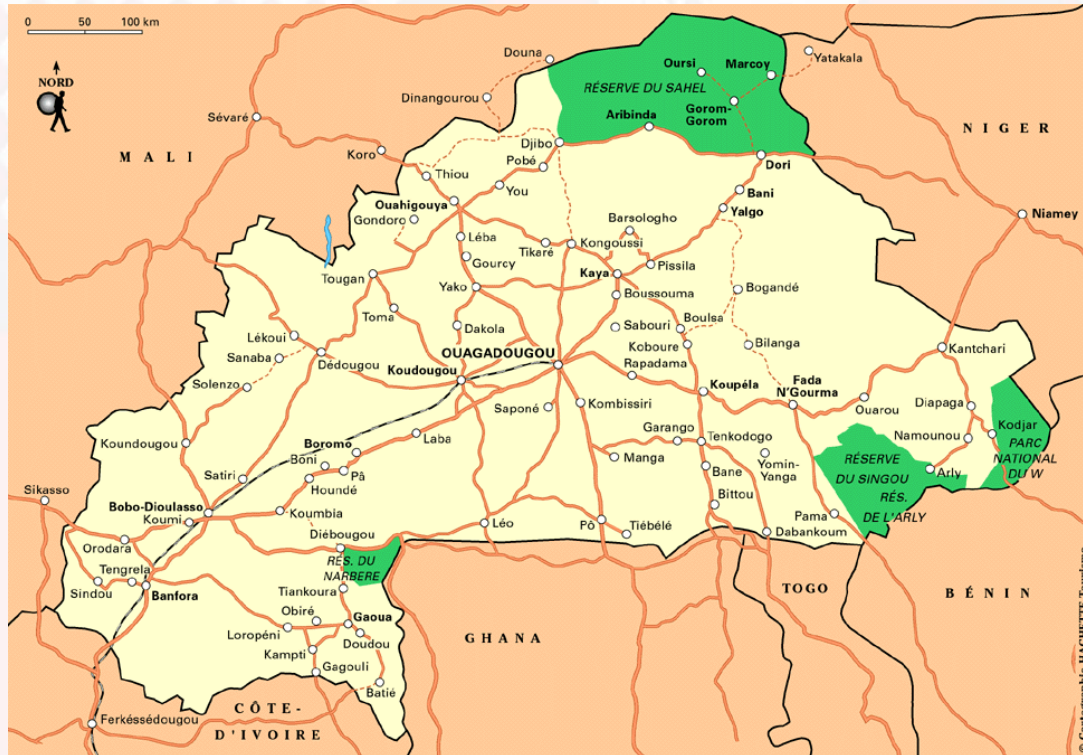
Figure 1



La calebasse [the calabash] upside down

Burkina Faso - facts

Figure 2



Map Burkina Faso

- 274 223 km^2
- 22.1 millions inhabitants
- Main source of subsistence is farming
- Over 70 languages
- Over 60 ethnic groups

Burkina Faso – brief introduction

- Kingdom of the Mossi and once known as Upper Volta
- Battle against Britain and France both using rivalry to impose colonization
- 1896 occupied and colonized by France
- 1958 self-governance
- 1960 Independence
- ✓ In 1984, Thomas Isidore Sankara changed the name of Upper Volta to Burkina Faso

Assassinated in 1987, Thomas Isidore Sankara is today an icon to Africa's resilience to sovereignty and real independence

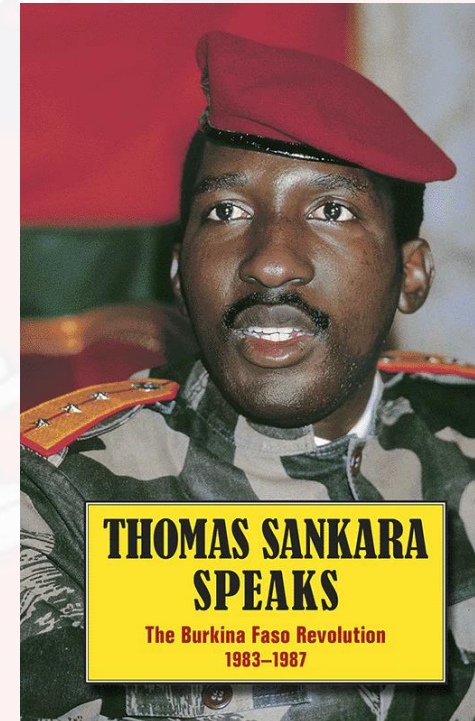


Figure 3

Overview of the conflict and violence

- 2015 terrorists attacks in Burkina Faso
 - Attacks focus on rural areas (villages and crops are burnt)
 - Massive internal displacement of people from rural to urban areas
 - Destruction of public and private goods
 - Occupation of arable lands and people are confined in urban areas
 - Deterioration of income sources (agricultural and informal sectors)
- People who were already managing with little resources have to share with a growing internally displaced people

Effects of the conflict and violence

- Land and populations in distress
 - Scarce financial means for high demands of needs in urgency
 - Deterioration of relations between people (growing level of mistrust)
 - Deterioration of lifestyles, customs, traditions, and aspirations
 - Basic needs like housing, education, health, and social services are slowed down or paused as services now focus on urgency and survival
- No age group of the population is spared

The study

- Related to the research field around social work and political conflict
- Informed-lived experiences
- Local knowledge approach
- The subject of the study aligns with the “Protection and promotion of internally displaced persons and other persons affected by terrorism and community conflicts” (Decree 2023/N0 0173 MSAHRNGF*)

* Ministry of Solidarity, Humanitarian Action, National Reconciliation, Gender and Family – Government of Burkina Faso

Research questions

1. How do adults experience internal displacement (what do they do, how do they organize themselves, what do they receive from social services, how do they contribute to their basic needs)?
2. How does the political conflict affect the local and international organization of adult social services and their delivery in Burkina Faso?
3. What are the main challenges in the current provision of social services for adults in Burkina Faso?
4. Are there opportunities and innovations in social services for adults in Burkina Faso to meet the existing and new needs of the population?
5. What are the main opportunities for the future development of social services for adults?

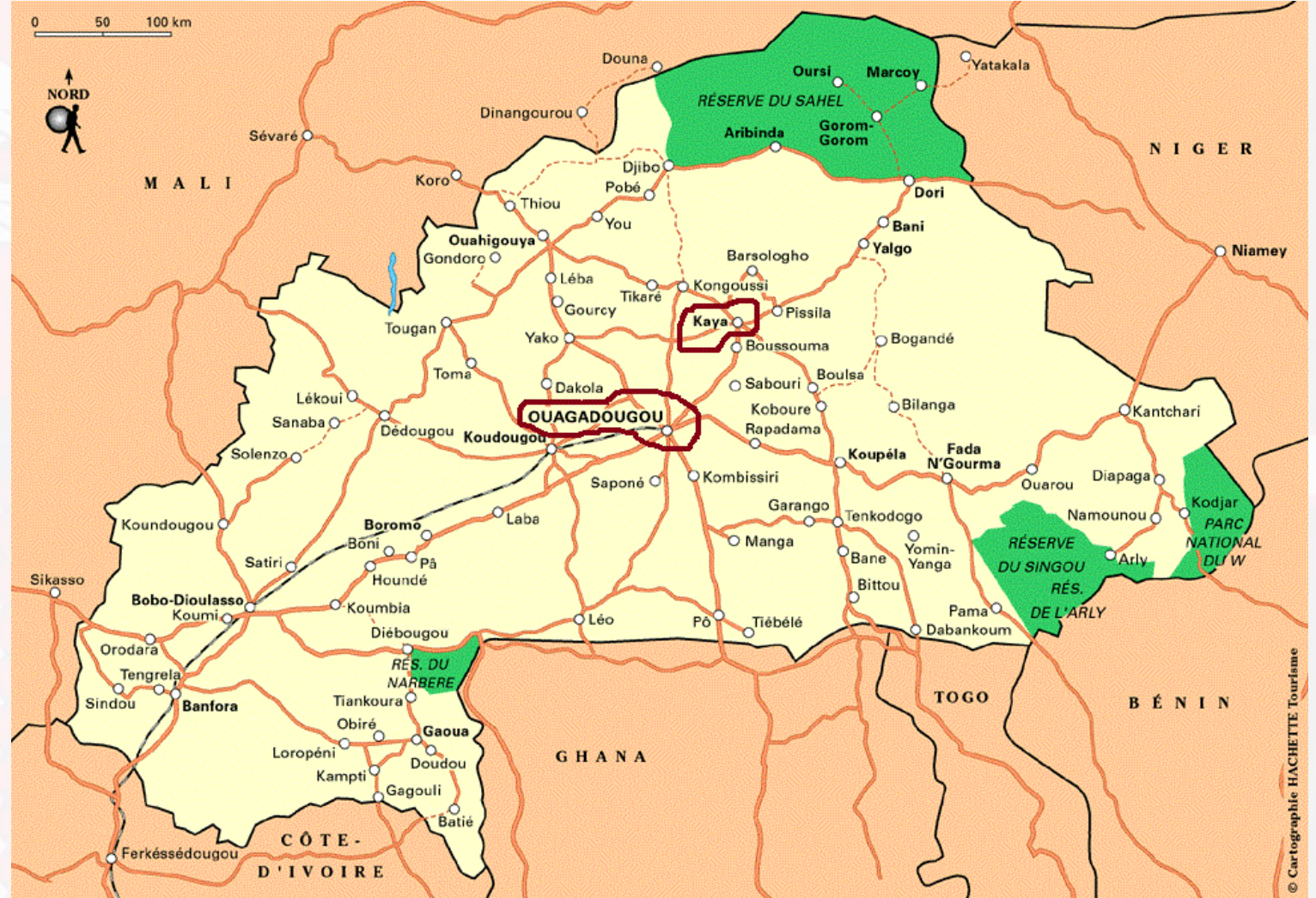
Target group for the study

- Internally displaced people (IDP)
- Non-internally displaced people as affected population
- Social workers and healthcare workers
- NGOs both local and international
- Host families and communities
- Social workers' associations
- Social work educational institutions
- Government workers - Ministry of Solidarity, Humanitarian Action, National Reconciliation, Gender and Family

The fieldwork

- November 2023 to February 2024
- Ouagadougou (province of Kadiogo) and Kaya (province of Sanmatenga)
- Conversations to enter into the field and understanding what is going on and who are affected
- Semi-structured interviews to answer to the research questions

Figure 2



Map Burkina Faso with the fieldwork places circled

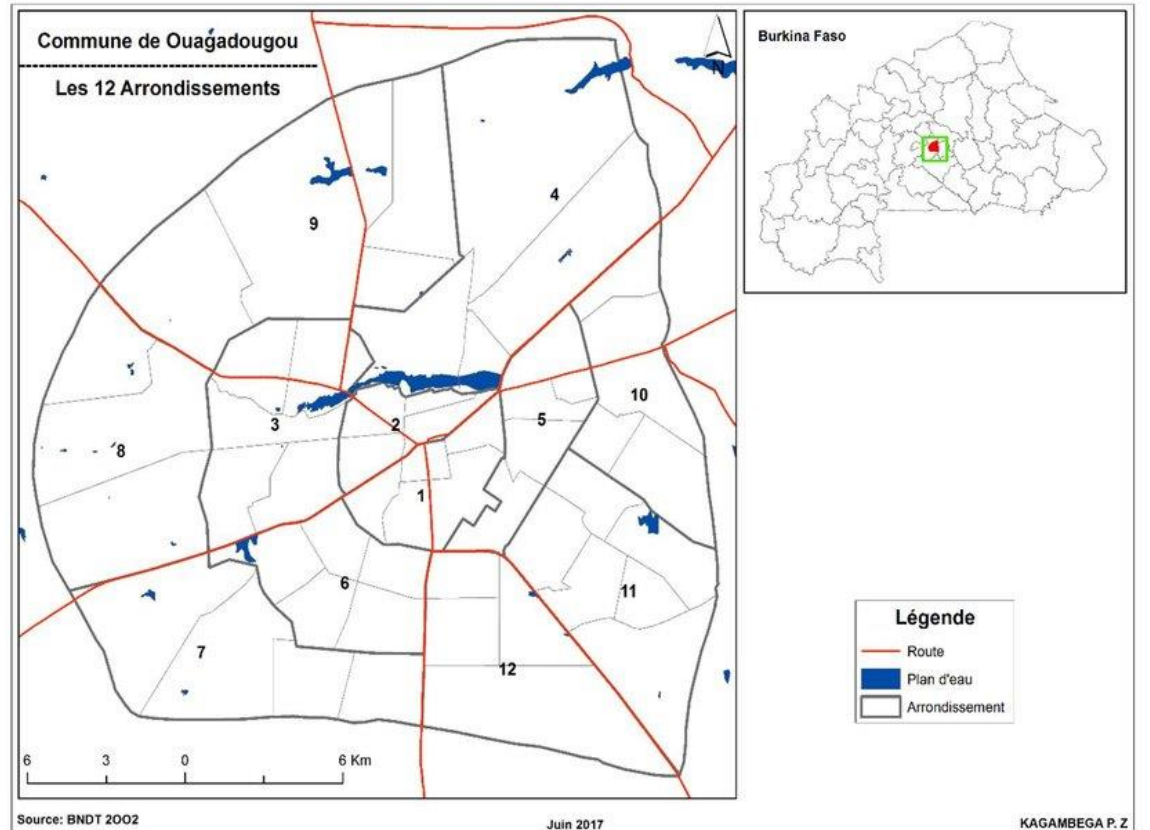
Participants of the study

Who	How many	Geographic location	
		Ouagadougou	Kaya
Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)	10	4 District 11 2 District 9	4
Host families/communities	5	3 District 11 1 District 9	1
Social Workers working with Internally Displaced Persons and Host communities	4	2 District 9	2
Health care workers working with Internally Displaced Persons and Host communities	1	0	1
ONG/Association local and international	6	3	3
Social Work professional associations	3	Ouagadougou but their members are located across the territory	
Social Work Educational Institution	1	Ouagadougou but the school is open to all across the territory	
Government worker - Ministry of Solidarity, Humanitarian Action, National Reconciliation, Gender and Family	1	Ouagadougou but the department is represented in the provinces across the territory	
Total		31	

Who are the IDPs

- Groups of people
- Populations living from farming and informal economy - farmers, breeders, artisans, and traders
- Urban population that inhabited in rural areas in the informal sector but also as civil servants and workers in independent, public and private sectors as well as in NGOs
- Refugees from Mali and Niger
 - Found themselves under the responsibility of the state, family and community members as well as local and international NGOs as state partners
 - Live mostly on donations, income generated within an informal sector, and begging

Figure 4



Les 12 Arrondissements – the 12 districts of Ouagadougou [Districts 9 and 11 have been covered by the fieldwork]

Number estimation

According to SP CONASUR*'s communication in 2023, as of March 31, 2023, there were:

- **2,062,534** internally displaced people as individuals
- **297301** households
- Spread in **303 municipalities**
- High number is in the center north region with a total of 493 954
- Province of origine is Soum with a total 532 873
- **Host province is Sanmatenga**

➤ Out of a total of 19,751,535 inhabitants (2019 survey) it means that around 10.44% of the population is in an internal displacement situation because of conflict and violence

*Permanent Secretariat National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation [Secretariat Permanent Conseil National de Secours d'Urgence et de Rehabilitation]

Origin and host places

Figure 5



Means used to escape

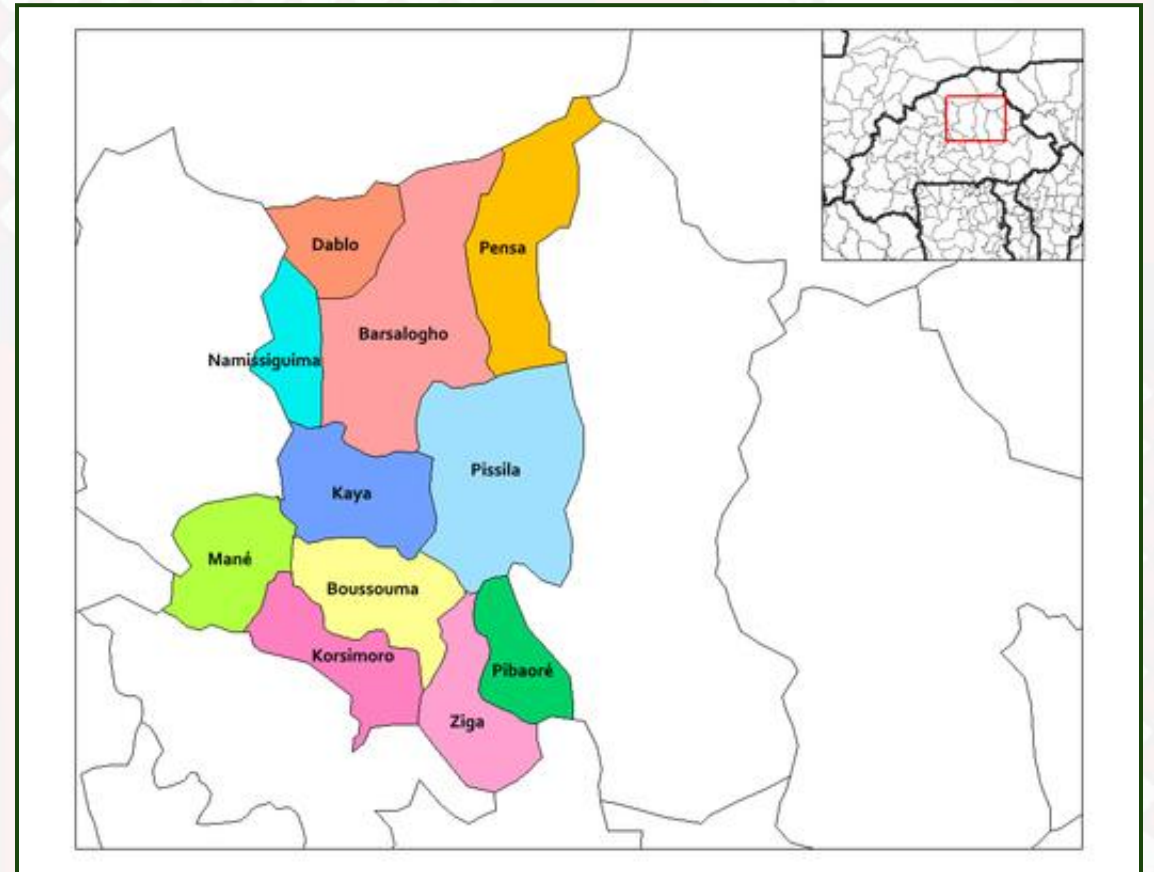
- Foot
- Cart pulled by donkeys
- Taxi-moto
- Public transport

Word cloud1 representing the IDPs' origin and host places

Where are IDPs

- State recognised sites in forms of Temporary sites (SAT)/Host sites (ZAD)
 - Family and community host sites (non-state recognised sites)
 - Host within family and community compounds
 - Rented or borrowed housing in peripheral districts of cities
- The peripheral districts host a large number of IDPs, the **social workers** intervening with their use of the term “vulnerable people,” because life in urban cities is difficult even for those who are not displaced.

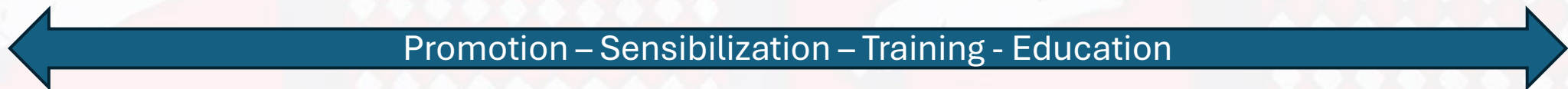
Figure 6



Departments of the province of Sanmatenga - Kaya has been covered by the fieldwork

Social Workers in Burkina Faso

- Civil servants working in different divisions of the Ministry (MSAHRNGF) across the territory
- Trainers in the social work educational settings
- Employees in NGOs
- Consultants
- Their educational background equipped them to work in areas related to early-child care, child and youth care, social work with individuals, groups, families, communities, and organisations.



Social Workers in the context of conflict and violence

- Civil servants
 - Recognised Managers of the IDP's sites
 - Non recognised Managers but intervening with IDP's like the example of family/community host sites
-
- Animation of activities
 - Coordination of the interventions of partners

- Hygiene
 - Health
 - Food
 - Means of subsistence
 - Security
-
- Group work
 - Conversations
 - Visits



Support – Identify - Select - Distribute – Coordinate - Assist

Firsthand results – table of needs

WHO	NEEDS
Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security• Food• Housing• Education• Health• Cash money• Jobs• Trust between citizens
Host families/communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visits from social services/government to encourage them• Government support if possible• Networking for their own mental hygiene• Unclear criteria regarding cash transfer to vulnerable population• Trust between citizens

Firsthand results – table of needs cont...

WHO	NEEDS
Social Workers working with Internally Displaced Persons and Host communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social benefits (risk and social protection)• Compensation for means needed to do their work such as transportation and communication costs (fuel and mega for mobile phones)• Time for their own mental hygiene• Mental hygiene support• Compensation for enormous extra hours work• Need for activities to relax and refocus on their personal lives' relationships• Work material (pen, paper notebook etc.)• Recognition of host family/community sites so that social workers interventions for IDPs can be supported by partners
Health Care workers working with Internally Displaced Persons and Host communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognize mental health as key aspect in the urgency plan but also as long-term health planning• Promote mental health training in schools for health care workers• Develop mental health support that is not exclusively focus on medication but community driven approaches• Government to maintain the sustainability of the work that international NGO are leaving behind

Firsthand results – table of needs cont...

WHO	NEEDS
Social Work Professional Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specialised training• Code of ethics and deontology• Protection and valorization of the profession• Better conditions in terms of salaries and compensation• Professional growth in term of promotions within the governmental public system
Social Work Educational Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reinforce the curricula• Develop action-research• Provide opportunities for professional development• Means (financial and intellectual) for research and curricula• Develop/reactivate partnerships

Firsthand results – table of needs cont...

WHO	NEEDS
NGO/Association local and international	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Localisation• Coordination between stakeholders• Long term plan for development• Mental health support as the development aspect solely is no more working in the context of the insecurity• Government must monitor more International NGO so that they partner with local NGO for the sustainability of their programs• Use of Media platform – which NGO are being put in the focus
Ministry of Solidarity, Humanitarian Action, National Reconciliation, Gender and Family. SP CONASUR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial• Material• Security (Anti-mine actions to deploy emergency relief)• Coordination between stakeholders and actors• Recovery

Firsthand results – IDP voices

Missing the most

- Land
- Animals
- People
- Routine
- Autonomy
- Rural environment

Difficult to adapt in urban area

- No arable land
- No grass to feed animals
- Ingredients for cooking are expensive
- Everything must be bought
- Life is isolating

Firsthand results – challenges p

- Financial
- Housing
- Food
- Customary practices
- Workloads
- Valorisation of contributions
- Stress management
- Coordination of interventions
- Survival mode maintained by the urgency status
- Planning
- Host family/community sites management
- Selection criteria for distribution of resources
- Resource sharing
- Loss of communities/villages/knowledge keepers/elders/lifestyles/values
- Documentations

Firsthand results – opportunities

- Skill development
- Lived experiences as valuable source of knowledge
- Documenting lessons learnt
- Boosting social work role and professionalization
- Localisation as an avenue to develop sustainable local networking
- Collaborative and partnership co-learning
- Research
- Recovery

Directions to the main results of the study

Figure 7



Words cloud 2 representing the expressions used by all participants to articulate the need for means/skills to address the trauma

- Need for means/skills to address the daily exposure to traumatic events
- Mobility of IDP
- Benefits coverage
- Adults and Elders services
- Knowledge gained
- Coordination between stakeholders
- Return
- Security
- Cash money
- Arable land

Recommendations

- **Improvement of working conditions:** income, bonus, risk compensation, social protection, and promotion (advancement in the profession)
- **Competences development:** code of ethics and professional conduct, courses adapted to work in a context of distress,
- **Professional support building:** access to training, skills building adapted to urgent and long-term needs for IDPs and social workers, initiate supervision for social workers who are permanently exposed to the distress situations
- **Documenting:** encourage research skills as a practice to maintain documenting events, experiences, and practices as viable sources for reflective practice in social work
- **Vulnerability framework:** develop activities that intersect competences from social work, development work, and health care work (strengthen the mental health care domain) to respond to long term needs of IDP's and non-IDP's
- **Security and Trust building:** everyone is concerned
- **Mobility:** equip social workers with the skills and resources needed to work with IDP's for better decisions making in the mobility IDP's and vulnerable populations are sometimes forced to undertake as the only avenue to continue with their survival mode
- **Humanitarian framework:** develop a holistic support for humanitarian emergencies, returns and non-returns
- **Localisation framework:** build and develop a network and collaboration between local NGOs and social workers as localisation cannot be achieved with only the development aspect of individuals, groups, families, communities, and organisations
- **Recovery framework:** capture the contributions of families/communities/neighborhoods and honour them in the government and NGOs communications and reports

Unpack the international lenses of humanitarian work, policy coordination, interventions, and solutions related to Internal Displacement. Strengthen local ways of knowing and doing.

Dare to invent the future

“You cannot carry out fundamental change without a certain amount of madness. In this case, it comes from nonconformity, the courage to turn your back on the old formulas, the courage to invent the future. It took the mad men of yesterday for us to be able to act with extreme clarity today. I want to be one of those mad men. ... We must dare to invent the future.”

Thomas Sankara, 1985.

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- The study has received an ethical approval from the University of Sussex (UK and a data collection approval from the Ministry of Solidarity, Humanitarian Action, National Reconciliation, Gender and Family (MSAHRNGF) – Government of Burkina Faso
- It is hosted by the School of Education and Social Work, University of Sussex (UK)
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Figure 1

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Figure 2

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Figure 3

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Figure 4

Ville de Ouagadougou illustrant les 12 arrondissements from Soma Massieke, A. R. R., Tapsobo, F.W., Kabore, D., Seogo, I., Tankoano, A., Dicko, M. H., Toguyeni, A., & Sawadogo-Lingani, H. (2017). Etude sur la capacité de production, du circuit de commercialisation et de la consommation du zoom-koom vendu dans la ville de Ouagadougou au Burkina Faso International Journal of Biological and Chemical Sciences 11(5), 2294-2305

Figure 5

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Figure 6

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Figure 7

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