

This Flash Report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- On 31 March, armed attackers raided Arbinda town, killing a religious leader and igniting clashes that claimed more than 60 lives.
- Registration is underway to determine the number of people displaced by the violence.
- On 6 April, the Government relocated 300 people from Arbinda to nearby Kelbo town after they expressed fear of retaliatory attacks.
- Water, sanitation, shelter, basic household items and protection are the priority needs.
- The Government and humanitarian organisations are providing assistance.
- Access to the affected area remains difficult due to insecurity.



Sources: UNCS, ESRI.
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SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 31 March, armed attackers stormed Arbinda town in the northern Sahel region, killing a local religious leader and six members of his family. The attack sparked intercommunal clashes in several villages around Arbinda, leading to the death of more than 60 people. Arbinda was already home to 14,658 displaced people who had fled violence and insecurity prior to the 31 March attack. Registration is ongoing with the figure likely to rise. Around 80 per cent of the displaced are living with host families. The Government has relocated some 300 people from the Fulani community to Kelbo locality south of Arbinda. The Fulanis, who requested to be relocated, had initially sought refuge at the mayor's office compound in Arbinda fearing reprisal attacks following the 31 March raid. The Government and humanitarian organizations are providing food, water, medical assistance and sanitation services to the displaced in Arbinda and in Kelbo. Insecurity, however, remains a hindrance to relief operations.

Armed attacks and insecurity in Burkina Faso's Est, Centre-Nord, Nord and Sahel regions have triggered an unprecedented humanitarian emergency. Over 138,000 people have been uprooted from their homes, over half of them since the start of 2019. Some 357 schools have been reopened in March, 954 schools remain closed, leaving some 119,000 children without education. About 250,000 people are affected as 18 health centres have been forced to close and 36 to cut back services. Humanitarian organizations are scaling up operations to support the Government-led response and provide life-saving assistance and protection to the displaced and other people in need. In 2019, the humanitarian community is appealing for US\$100 million to assist 900,000 most vulnerable people among the 1.2 million in need of assistance. As of 15 April, 21 per cent of the funds had been provided.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSE

Priority needs in Arbinda include WASH, shelter, NFI, health and protection. UNHCR provided shelter and household items to the families relocated to Kelbo. Priority needs in Kelbo are WASH, health, protection and NFI (kitchen utensils). The Government through the Disaster Management Agency – CONASUR – and humanitarian organisations are providing food, water, sanitation and hygiene services as well as household items.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH): OXFAM is distributing hygiene kits. Around 18,000 of the 19,200 people targeted had received hygiene kits as of 16 April. OXFAM and Solidarités International are coordinating efforts to repair boreholes and drill new ones in a region suffering from acute water shortage. CONASUR constructed a borehole and provided a 46,000-liter tank to supply water to the IDPs. Borehole repairs are to be completed in the next two to three weeks. This will improve water supply to the affected people in Arbinda. OXFAM has built latrines for displaced people living in temporary sites. It is feared that the IDPs hosted in families will exceed the capacity of the already weak sanitation systems at household level.

Food assistance: OXFAM has started food distribution in Arbinda using vouchers. Some 6,000 households are receiving assistance, which will run for two months. Food assistance by CONASUR for three months is being stocked to complement and continue OXFAM's assistance in Arbinda and is ongoing in Kelbo, targeting the 7,7664 IDPs.

Shelter and Non-food items (NFI): CONASUR has dispatched 40 family tents to Arbinda after the latest attacks, bringing to 203 the number of tents CONASUR and UNHCR have provided in the town. However, with a gap of 200 tents, shelter remains a priority for Arbinda. CONASUR is also distributing 70 family tents for the displaced in Kelbo. The other displaced people in Kelbo are living within the host community. CONASUR also distributed clothing and other household items to 14,000 IDPs in Arbinda. UNHCR provided shelter and NFI to the 300 people relocated from Arbinda to Kelbo. Kitchen utensils are among the identified items needed.

Protection: Insecurity in Arbinda and lack of safe access to the population remain a main concern. The violence has traumatised the host community in Arbinda as well as the displaced. Humanité & Inclusion, which has been providing psychosocial assistance in the area, is planning a mission to assess the situation and determine the needs. Danish Refugee Council is working with community volunteers to monitor and respond to protection concerns. UNFPA runs SGBV programme in Arbinda that will address new cases.

Health: Médecins du Monde Spain et Médecins du Monde France, Alima, MSF Switzerland, and WHO through the Government Operation Center for Medical Emergencies – CORUS – are providing medical assistance and supplies. However, there a shortage of qualified health workers.

COORDINATION

On 4 and 10 April OCHA convened a meeting with NGOs operating in Arbinda to discuss the needs and response to be urgently provided to support the Government's efforts. Humanitarian response will now be coordinated through the sector groups and the inter-sector meetings.