

# Social and spatial inequalities linked to flood-induced displacements in Burkina Faso

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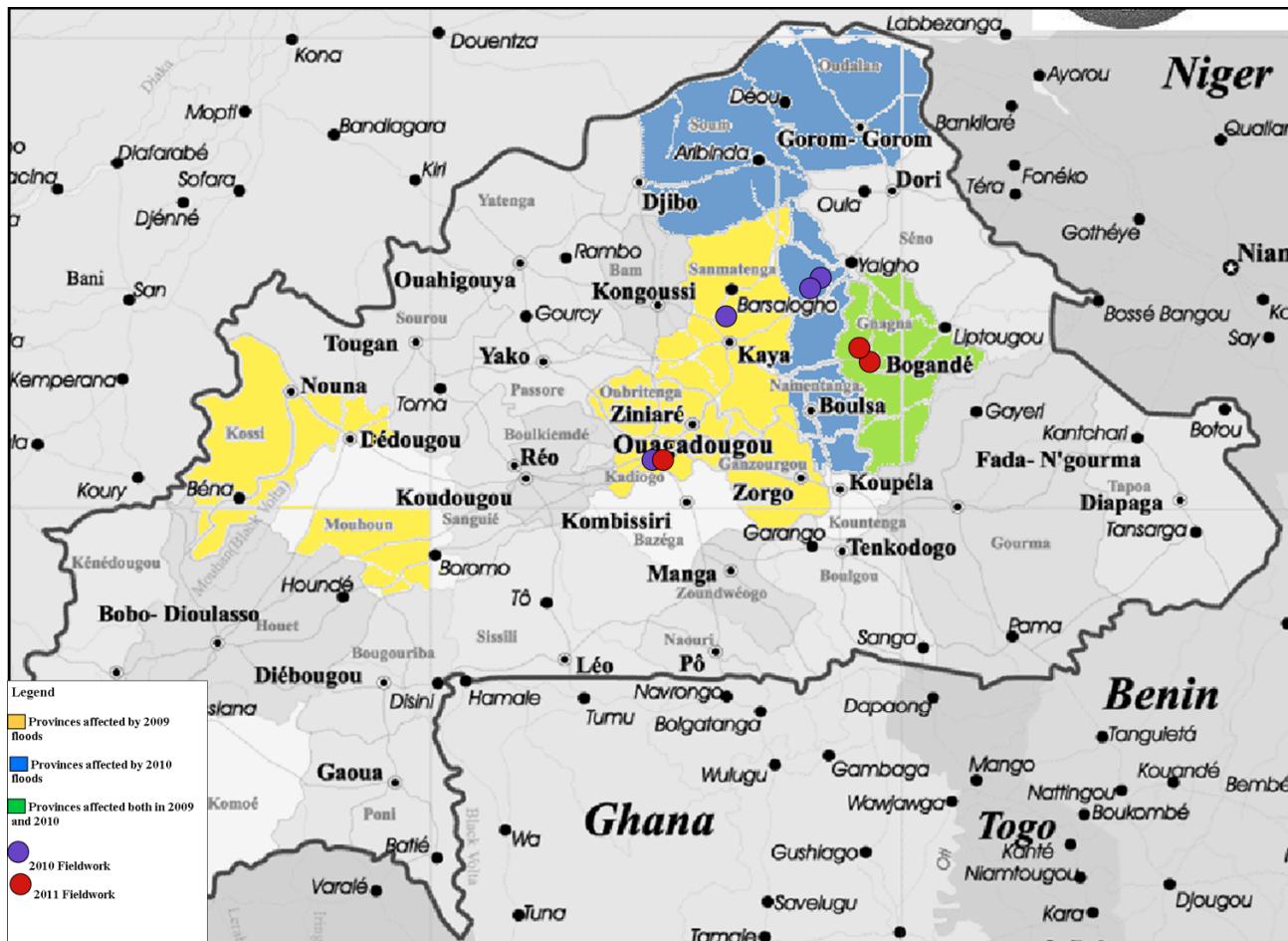
## The context

- Sahelian countries are usually studied and seen as drought prone areas.
- For the past 20 years, Sahelian countries have faced periods of torrential rains which resulted in floods.
- Flood-induced displacement are less studied than drought-induced displacement.

# The research

- Data collected during two field studies conducted by Malika Peyraut and myself in 2010 and 2011
- Data collected in urban and rural areas affected by recent floods
- Perception of the causes of the recent floods
- Strategies developed by the victims
- Assistance given by the authorities and NGOs

## Provinces severely affected by the 2009 and 2010 floods and fieldwork locations.



# 1st september 2009

- 1st september 2009 :
  - 263 mm in 7 hours on Ouagadougou
  - 41 deaths and 62 injured
  - 180386 homeless
  - 33172 destroyed houses
- Climate change was the official explanation for this disaster

# Location-related inequalities

- At a national level
  - Areas affected by heavy rains are located in Central and Northern Regions
  - These areas had been previously affected by drought, particularly by the two severe droughts which occurred in :
    - 1968-1973
    - 1983-1985
  - The territory had been managed in order to face the risks of drought
    - Rivers harnessed with dams to store the water

# Collapse of the dam



## At a regional level

- Inequality in terms **of visibility** of the victims between urban and rural areas
- Victims located in the capital city were the most visible
- Victims residing in rural areas and small cities were forgotten by the media and the authorities
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## At a local level

- Most affected people :
  - Farmers, fishermen and cattle herders living along the water reservoirs
  - Inhabitants of informal living quarters in Ouagadougou and small cities

# Kaya. The water flow is blocked off by a wall



# City of Kaya. Several destroyed houses



# City of Kaya. A destroyed house in a courtyard



# Inequalities triggered by displacement

- Massive and spontaneous forced displacement
- In rural areas :
  - First shelter : Family and kin
  - Most displacements were short distance and temporary
  - Most affected farmers rebuilt their house in their devastated courtyard

# New buildings in the courtyards



# Flood-induced displacement in Ouagadougou

- Floods resulted in massive displacement mainly towards administrative buildings such as schools.
- Most displacements were definitive because the government prevented people to settle back to their previous site
- Some of them were entitled to resettle in a place called Yagma

# Yagma, september 2010

## the resettlement for the floods victims of the 1st september 2009 in Ouagadougou



# Inequalities triggered by compensation

- Who was entitled to be a « flood victim » ?
- A status not given to all victims
- A special category associated with a special place, the administrative shelter

# Inequalities triggered by policy actions

- A resettlement site located about 20 Km northwest of Ouagadougou
- A resettlement programme which made people jobless because of the distance from Ouagadougou
- A resettlement program as a show case to show the world that Burkina Faso was taking good care of the first victims of the climate change.

Yagma, september 2010  
the tents and the first few houses



# Yagma, a first church



**MINISTERE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DU CADRE DE VIE**

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**SECRETARIAT PERMANENT DU CONSEIL NATIONAL**

**POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE**

**BURKINA FASO**

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***Unité - Progrès – Justice***

***Novembre 2007***

***PROGRAMME D'ACTION NATIONAL D'ADAPTATION  
A LA VARIABILITE ET AUX CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES  
(PANA DU BURKINA FASO)***

# Conclusion

- Spatial and social inequalities have contributed to the victims'vulnerability
- Most of the government response has been concentrated on the capital city ouagadougou to the detriment of rural areas;
- However, the resettlement process is a failure because it does not offer sustainable livelihoods to the resettled dwellers

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

