In Numbers

- **5,005 mt** of food assistance distributed
- **US$ 238,028** cash-based transfers made
- **US$ 42 m** six months (January-June 2020) net funding requirements
- **404,977 people assisted** in December 2019

53% [Female]  47% [Male]

Operational Updates

- **Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** WFP provided lifesaving assistance to 287,291 IDPs and host-communities. The food basket comprised of cereals, pulses and vegetable oil with 4,171 mt of food distributed during the month. WFP continues to register beneficiaries in its beneficiary information and transfer management platform (SCOPE) with the objective to register 35,000 beneficiaries in the platform by the end of February 2019 in the Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Nord, Est et du Nord.

- **Assistance to refugees:** During the reporting period, 23,389 refugees living in the official camps in the Sahel region (Mentao and Goudebou) received 481 mt of food. Cash-based transfer was suspended since October 2019 for security reasons and is expected to resume in January using mobile transfer via a local partner.

- **Education:** As part of WFP regular school feeding programme, 43,071 students including 21,978 girls received food assistance comprising 212 mt as part of their school meals and 58 mt for take-home rations (THR) targeting girls. In addition, 81 participants were trained in emergency school feeding management and implementation in Ouahigouya (Nord region).

- **Nutrition:** In December, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 28,287 beneficiaries including 23,293 children aged 6-59 months and 4,994 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) as part of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment and malnutrition prevention programmes implemented in the Centre-Nord, Est, Nord and Sahel regions. Some 81 mt of nutritional products were distributed. For prevention activities through the Learning and monitoring groups for infant and young child feeding practices (GASPs) in the Est, a total of 12 GASPs were animated with the participation of 651 pregnant and lactating women and 23,287 beneficiaries including 21,978 girls received food assistance comprising 212 mt as part of their school meals and 58 mt for take-home rations (THR) targeting girls. In addition, 81 participants were trained in emergency school feeding management and implementation in Ouahigouya (Nord region).

- **Resilience:** Monitoring missions of food-for asset (FFA) activities were carried out in the four new community-based participatory plans (CBPP) - Tagala, Tanwoko, Nessemtenga and Namissigui. Over 420 hectares of stone cords and half-moons in the Centre-Nord region were realized.

**Operational Context**

Rising insecurity in Burkina Faso continues to cause displacements of households forced to flee for safety. As of 9 December 2019, 560,000 IDPs were officially registered (CONASUR). In addition, the results of the November 2019 Cadre Harmonisé revealed that for the period from October-December 2019, some 1.2 million people need food assistance (Phase 3 or worse) while approximately 1.8 million vulnerable people will be food insecure in 29 provinces across the country during the 2020 lean season (June-August).

The country has been declared on state of emergency until 12 January 2020 in 14 out of the 45 provinces. To respond to the volatile security context in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, WFP has declared a Level 3 emergency in the three Central Sahel countries. WFP operations in Burkina Faso include emergency food assistance to IDPs and host families, refugees and lean season affected people; school feeding including support to a local yogurt production project; treatment and prevention of malnutrition; food assistance for assets for small-scale agriculture; Purchase for Progress (P4P) project to support value chains; micro-insurance (RA) and macro-insurance (African Risk Capacity); national capacity strengthening; provision of information and communication technology, logistics and other support to partners as needed. Burkina Faso is a semi-arid country in the Sahel. Its population is estimated at about 20.4 million, with 40 percent who live below the poverty line. Most of the population depends on one season of rain-fed agriculture for their livelihoods, leaving the country vulnerable to climate shocks.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis affected populations, including refugees, IDPs and host communities in targeted areas are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of a crisis

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:
- Provide an integrated assistance package including food assistance, school meals, and specialized nutritious food to refugees, IDPs, host population, children and PLW/Gs affected by climate shocks, conflicts and other disruptions.

Strategic Outcome 2: Food insecure populations including school-age children, in targeted areas have access to adequate and nutritious food all year-round

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:
- Provide school meals to vulnerable children during the primary school year, including take home rations for girls.
- Provide assistance through CBT to beneficiaries targeted by government social safety nets including capacity strengthening for adolescent girls.

Strategic Outcome 3: Nutritional vulnerability populations including children aged 6-59 months, pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW/Gs), antiretroviral therapy (ART) clients, in targeted areas have improved nutritional status all year round

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:
- Support beneficiaries through the provision of specialized nutritious food and integrated programmes (including SBCC) to manage acute malnutrition and prevent stunting.

Strategic Outcome 4: Smallholder farmers and communities including those affected by recurrent climate shocks, in targeted areas have more resilient livelihoods and sustainable food systems by 2023

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:
- Support targeted groups through livelihood and asset creation, gender-responsive and nutrition sensitive value chain development, weather insurance schemes, and innovative production technologies and practices

Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 5: National institutions have strengthened capacities to manage shock-responsive systems, food security, nutrition and social protection programmes and policies by 2023

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:
- Provide capacity-strengthening support including emergency response, early warning systems, supply chain, National P4P, weather insurance, nutrition-sensitive social safety net data collection and management, to national institutions and partners.

Strategic Result 6: Humanitarian and development partners have access to common services to access and operate in targeted areas throughout the year

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:
- Provide technical assistance through the Emergency Telecommunications Sector/cluster to national disaster management offices and other relevant partners to strengthen emergency communication and coordination mechanisms.
- Provide on-demand services to the Government, humanitarian and development partners.
- Provide humanitarian Air services to national disaster management offices and other relevant partners to access areas of humanitarian interventions

In the Est region, Djoara Foulgo and Harga communities continued working on the road rehabilitation to enable their access to basic social factors (health centre, school, etc.) and to recover degraded lands. One km of track was completed in addition to the 2 km realized in the previous month. Communities of Harga village completed 1.3 km of track. More than 5,416 participants (32,496 beneficiaries) were involved in FFA activities in the three regions (Est, centre-Nord and Sahel) and received a total of USD 238,028.

Capacity strengthening: In December, WFP provided three farmers organizations with seven compost production machines “compostaterres” with the objective of strengthening the capacity of compost production for community-based participatory planning (CBPP) in the Est, Centre-Nord, Nord and Sahel regions.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Monitoring: Data collection for the 4th round of m-VAM targeting IDPs and host communities was finalized. More than 2,000 households were assessed in the Nord, Est, Centre-Nord and Sahel regions. The objective of this assessment was to allow WFP to (i) get information on changes in the food situation over time; (ii) have reliable data on the population groups most affected by the food insecurity and (iii) make decisions in terms of redirecting support based on the need of each intervention area.

Evaluation: The report of the thematic evaluation on gender in WFP interventions in Burkina Faso is being drafted with a final report expected by January 2020. This evaluation is aligned with the guidelines of the national Economic and social Development Plan (PNDES) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

The evaluation of the milk project is being finalised and the validation report is expected in February.

Challenges

- WFP is facing two major challenges: funding and humanitarian access. WFP’s overall operations in Burkina Faso need USD 42 million to cover the needs of the most vulnerable populations for the next six months (until May 2020). Insecurity hinders humanitarian access, thus affecting WFP and other humanitarian actors’ ability to reach targeted populations. WFP continues to implement access strategy to ensure that those furthest behind receive the necessary assistance.

Donors
Austria, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Lichtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Private Sector, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, UN Other Funds, United Kingdom and the United States of America.