



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burkina Faso Country Brief May 2020



Operational Context

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. The rising insecurity continues to deteriorate across all regions of Burkina Faso, resulting in a massive populations displacement. As of 22 April 2020, over 848,000 people have been officially displaced. Food and nutritional security across the country is critical - over 2.15 million people expected to be in food insecurity during the upcoming lean season (June – August), and the COVID-19 pandemic had added an additional layer of vulnerability to an already fragile situation. Since the first COVID-19 case in March, the Government of Burkina Faso has introduced restrictions measures which have been gradually lifted or eased.

To respond to the food and nutrition assistance needs 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 emergency school feeding programme and 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 development; micro-insurance (R4) and macro-insurance (African Risk Capacity); national capacity strengthening; provision of information and communication technology, logistics and other support to partners as needed. WFP has been present in Burkina Faso since 1967.



Population: **20.4 million**

2018 Human Development Index:
182 out of 189 countries

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition:
25% of children aged 6-59 months

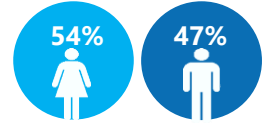
In Numbers

9,892 mt of food distributed

USD 1.4 m of cash distributed

USD 62 m six months (June-November 2020)
net funding requirements

760,969 people assisted
in May 2020



Operational Updates

Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): In May, WFP assisted 531,664 IDPs) and member of host families in the Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Nord, Est, Nord and Sahel regions via an in-kind food basket with a total of 8.37 mt of food. In addition, 79,299 IDPs residing in the Centre-Nord region received a total of XOF 633,832,000 via cash-based transfers through mobile money. Nutritional support was provided to 33,161 children aged 6-23 months and 19,744 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) as part of the prevention of acute malnutrition programme.

Assistance to refugees: WFP continued assistance to Malian refugees residing in the Sahel region. Despite the insecurity, affecting humanitarian access, as well as the mobility and security of refugees, WFP, and other actors present in the camps, assisted a total of 6,463 refugees with in-kind food assistance. Cash-based transfer distributions have yet to resume in the camp due to security reasons.

In coordination with UNHCR and *Veterinaires Sans Frontières* (VSF), WFP has distributed 10 small ruminants to 400 households (200 refugees and 200 host families) residing in the areas surrounding the two camps. This activity aims to reinforce refugees and host community livelihoods as well as the social cohesion among the two groups, who often share the same resources. Furthermore, with the goal of strengthening the refugees' self-subsistence, WFP has organized training sessions for refugees on cutting and conservation of forage and on animal breeding.

Education: As schools are closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, WFP continues to monitor the situation with the Ministry of Education and Education Cluster to resume assistance as soon as schools reopen on the 1 of June. Nonetheless, WFP continues to support complementary activities (capacity strengthening and nutritional gardens) aimed for stakeholders involved in the school feeding activities as well as the overall community. Trainings were conducted in two schools in the Séno province (Sahel). Actors were trained in the processing and conservation of nutritious garden vegetables (tomato, eggplant, cabbage). Local authorities, teachers and community members took part to these trainings. WFP plans to expand the development of nutritional school gardens to an additional 39 schools for the next school year.

Nutrition: Over 10,000 children aged 6-59 months suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 3,500 PLW received specialized nutritious food in the Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Nord, Est, Nord and Sahel regions. WFP continues to ensure that communities are sensitized on key nutritional and hygiene issues, particularly in the COVID-19 context. A total of 12,545 IDPs, including 1,505 men received messages on good hygiene and feeding practices for infants and PLW during distributions to IDPs in the Centre-Nord, Est and Sahel regions.

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Main photo: Credit: WFP/ Djakaridja Sawadogo

Caption: Jars containing processed vegetables from vegetable gardens in Dori.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
201.8 m	96.2 m	62 m

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 Result 2: No one suffers for malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Nutritionally vulnerable 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 Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

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 8: Global partnership support

Strategic Outcome 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

Resilience: Despite COVID-19 restrictions, WFP continued its resilience building activities in the Centre-Nord, Est, Sahel and Nord regions. Community activities were suspended in favor of individual household activities, in line with Government COVID-19 response. Nonetheless, critical activities at an advanced stage were continued putting in place mitigation measures. This enabled communities, under the supervision and support of WFP, to be able to build 220 ha of stone barriers associated with half-moons, and develop 26 ha of gardens, 17 ha of half-moons for tree production and 95 ha of zai pits. Furthermore, during the month, as individual households' activities were introduced, beneficiaries received sensitization training and information regarding the operational changes.

To reduce the aflatoxin contamination in the corn and peanuts fields, WFP will be procuring locally 15 mt of Aflasafe (a certified biological control product) to be used in 1,500 ha of land thus benefitting 10 farmers' organizations and 8 communities for the next agricultural campaign in the Cascades, Haut-Bassins, Nord, Centre-Nord, Boucle du Mouhoun et Centre-Ouest regions.

Capacity strengthening: As part of the capacity strengthening activities, diagnostics and development of capacity strengthening plans for the three government structures (SP-CVEL, SAP and SONAGESS) were carried out via tele-working, adapting to the COVID-19 context. Finalisation of the plans is expected by June 2020.

WFP signed a collaboration agreement with the milk processing unit NSK as part of the capacity strengthening of the UTL. The collaboration would focus on ensuring that yogurt production is maintained at a high-quality standard throughout the production process. This will be ensured through the provision of relevant equipment and tools for the quality control and production of yogurt as well as maintenance of production equipment.

Monitoring/Evaluation

Mobile post-distribution monitoring was conducted in April/May 2020 and its results outlined that: (i) about 80 percent of beneficiary households have an acceptable food consumption limit, which marks an improvement compared to the latest FSMS (70 percent of households); (ii) food consumption score is the worst in the Nord region despite the assistance being provided; (iii) Est and Sahel regions are identified to be the regions where beneficiaries adopt most frequently coping strategy mechanisms – this includes reducing the consumption of adults for the benefit of children and reducing the number of meals during the day. WFP will take these results to improve its distributions in the coming months.

COVID-19

WFP is developing an integrated social protection programme aiming to complement and strengthen the Government of Burkina Faso COVID-19 pandemic response and mitigate its socio-economic impact. Assessments are ongoing to evaluate the impact of COVID-19 in Burkina Faso.

At the end of May, WFP has introduced the regional aviation flights connecting Accra (Ghana) with Ouagadougou, with the first two flights taking place. The flight will service the route Accra-Niamey-Ouagadougou-Bamako on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Challenges

Urgent funding is needed to continue critical emergency operations, including emergency school feeding. During the upcoming lean season, with available resources, WFP will be able to cover the assistance to the most vulnerable food insecure populations exclusively for two months (June-July).

Humanitarian access constraints are particularly severe for the Est region, as well as the Boucle du Mouhoun area bordering with Mali. This is particularly due to the intensification of non-state armed groups activities.