



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Burkina Faso Country Brief September 2020



## Operational Context

Burkina Faso is a semi-arid country in the Sahel. Its population is estimated at about 20.9 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, resulting in a massive population displacement. As of 8 September 2020, over one million people had been officially displaced. Food and nutritional security across the country is critical – with 3.3 million people facing food insecurity – and COVID-19 has added an additional layer of vulnerability to an already fragile situation (Cadre Harmonisé July 2020). Since the first COVID-19 case in March, the Government of Burkina Faso has introduced restriction 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 include emergency food assistance to IDPs and host families, refugees and lean season affected people; school feeding including emergency school meals 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: **20.9 million**

2018 Human Development Index:  
**182 out of 189 countries**

Income Level: **Low**

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

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**Main photo:** Credit: WFP/Sylvie Tougouma

**Caption:** General food distribution to IDPs in the Centre-Nord region.

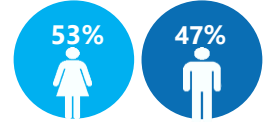
## In Numbers

**5,368 mt** of food distributed

**USD 1.6 million** of cash distributed

**USD 86.2 million** six months (October 2020-March 2021) net funding requirements

**606,719** people assisted in September 2020



## Operational Updates

**Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** In September, WFP provided lifesaving assistance to 445,695 IDPs and members of host families. 3,489 mt of food were distributed in the most food insecure regions (Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Est, Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, and Sahel). Among IDPs residing in the Centre-Nord region, 96,983 individuals received cash-based transfers (CBT). WFP also provided nutritional support, benefitting 19,442 children aged 6-23 months and 7,062 pregnant and lactating women (PLW).

**Lean season response:** Due to operational challenges, WFP distributed the last round of assistance for the lean season response in September. A total of 121,546 vulnerable food insecure individuals received assistance in the Centre-Nord, Est, and Nord regions. WFP distributed in total 1,647 mt of food and USD 180,806. WFP complemented this assistance with prevention of moderate acute malnutrition activities reaching 11,638 children aged 6-23 months and PLW. Overall, over 536,000 vulnerable individuals were assisted during the lean season.

**Assistance to refugees:** Increasing conflicts in the Sahel region affect Malian refugees' means of subsistence and food security as well as humanitarian access. As a result, distributions in Mentao camp and surrounding areas were suspended since July. WFP is working to resume assistance in this area as soon as possible. Since March, WFP started to distribute two-month food rations to refugees with the aim of reducing movements and associated risk. September rations are planned to be distributed along with October assistance.

**Nutrition:** In addition to prevention of acute malnutrition activities, WFP also contributed with screening and treating moderate acute malnutrition. The nutritional health of 14,595 children aged 6-59 months and 4,551 PLW was taken care of in September, via the distribution of 95 mt of nutritional inputs.

**Education:** Ahead of school resumptions scheduled for 1 October 2020, WFP is prepositioning COVID-19 protective hygiene kits in schools that are benefiting from WFP emergency and regular school feeding programmes. The kits include hand-washing buckets and no-contact infrared thermometers.

From 7 to 11 September, WFP participated in a workshop on the elaboration of the first National School Food and Nutrition Strategy as part of its continuous technical support to the Ministry of National Education, Literacy and the Promotion of National Languages. The overall objective of the strategy is to contribute to equitable access to a balanced, sufficient, and healthy diet for all students, thus improving access and quality of education in Burkina Faso.

**Capacity strengthening:** WFP continued providing technical and financial support to the Executive Secretariat of the National Council for Food and Nutritional Security (SE-CNSA) for the elaboration of the Charter for Food and Nutritional Security Interventions. It aims to provide an institutional framework for the harmonisation and coordination of interventions by food and nutrition security actors. A first draft was produced during a multi-partner workshop on 21-25 September. It is currently being amended and will eventually be submitted for validation and adoption at the next General Assembly of the CNSA (expected to be held by the end of the year).

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

| 2020 Total Requirement (in USD) | 2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>201.8 m</b>                  | <b>139 m</b>                          | <b>86.2 m</b>                               |

### 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:** Climate shocks, and especially droughts in the context of Burkina Faso, affect food insecure people the most. WFP stands ready to support the Government in responding to droughts and in mitigating their impact on vulnerable populations, through a tripartite [partnership with the African Risk Capacity \(ARC\)](#). WFP, the Government, and ARC gathered on 14-18 September via a technical working group led by the Directorate-General for Sectoral Studies and Statistics (DGESS), to review the indicators linked to the vulnerability of agricultural farmers. This review will allow to better assess these populations' vulnerability as well as assess the foreseen trigger for the insurance in case of drought.

Furthermore, WFP has put in place a micro-insurance approach accessible to smallholder farmers, in order to strengthen their capacities and reduce food losses. This will lead to WFP conducting trainings on agricultural integrated risk management and post harvesting techniques in the coming weeks. The project, piloted in 2019 and scaled up in 2020, allowed 2,500 beneficiaries in the Centre-Nord and Est regions to subscribe to climate insurance.

**Response to floods:** The Government declared a state of natural disaster on 9 September following heavy rains. Over 100,000 people are estimated to be affected and most of the flooded areas are already identified as food insecure (Centre-Nord, Est and Sahel regions). WFP is planning to provide assistance to some 100,000 individuals affected by the floods, and support to the Government in undertaking relevant assessments and response.

## COVID-19

As part of the United Nations COVID-19 response, WFP is providing its service to UNICEF and will distribute 800,000 soaps (for a total volume of 173 m<sup>3</sup>) targeted at 16,000 vulnerable IDP households. WFP will distribute the soaps along with its food assistance across five regions: Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, and Sahel. Joint cooperation with other UN agencies and other partners enables WFP to provide a comprehensive package to affected households.

## Monitoring/Evaluation

WFP and the National Food Security Stock Management Entity (SONAGESS) published the third edition of a joint [market bulletin](#). Results outline that: (i) Prices of basic food items experienced significant increases between July and August 2020, which translates into greater pressure on livelihoods; (ii) The Est and Sahel stand out from other regions by the persistence of price peaks for most cereals, reflecting serious difficulties in food supply and access; and (iii) Following the turmoil in the livestock markets during preparations for the *Tabaski* celebration (31 July), the situation deteriorated sharply, with a significant drop in animal prices and terms of trade.

## UNHAS

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) was granted the permission to fly by the National Civil Aviation Agency. This represents a crucial step for the start of UNHAS operations in Burkina Faso. The first helicopter flight took place on 28 September, for the purpose of reconnaissance operations over Kaya city and surrounding IDP sites (Centre-Nord region).

## Logistics Cluster

The [Logistics Cluster](#), led by WFP, is in the process of being activated in Burkina Faso. By making common logistics services available to humanitarian actors, the Logistics Cluster aims to enhance their emergency response and optimize logistical resources.

## Challenges

The funding situation remains critical. Due to the situation, combined with delays in the arrival of commodities, WFP was obliged to recur to ration cuts for IDPs and/or lean season assistance during the months of July, August and September. With the current outlook, WFP will continue to recur to reduced rations to ensure continued assistance. Without immediate additional resources, the foreseen lack of resources will have a detrimental impact on IDPs requiring food assistance to meet their basic needs.