WFP Burkina Faso
Country Brief
January 2021

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 the impact of climate shocks. The rising insecurity continues to deteriorate across all regions of Burkina Faso, resulting in a massive population displacement. As of 31 December 2020, over one million people had been officially displaced. Food and nutritional security across the country is critical – with 2 million people facing food insecurity - and COVID-19 has added an additional layer of vulnerability to an already fragile situation (Cadre Harmonisé November 2020).

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 internally displaced persons 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 food system value chain development; micro-insurance (R4) and macro-insurance (African Risk Capacity); national capacity strengthening; provision of information and communication technology, logistics, United Nations Humanitarian Air Service, and other support to partners as needed. WFP has been present in Burkina Faso since 1967.

In Numbers
4,162 mt of food distributed
USD 2.7 million of cash distributed
USD 106 million six months (February-July 2021) net funding requirements
893,942 people assisted in January 2021

Operational Updates
Assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs): In January, WFP provided 745,362 IDPs with USD 2.7 million cash-based transfers (CBT) and 3,107 mt of food, distributed in the six targeted regions (Boucle du Mouhou, Centre-Est, Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, and Sahel). WFP continued scaling up CBT assistance, from 346,000 IDPs in December 2020 to over 366,000 in January 2021. WFP assisted 33,000 children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) through the provision of fortified blended food to improve their nutritional status.

Assistance to refugees: WFP distributed CBT assistance to 5,242 Malian refugees of Goudébou camp (Dori, Sahel region) in January. While refugees residing in Mentao camp (Djibo, Sahel) could not be assisted since November 2020 due to insecurity, WFP resumed assistance providing 5,783 refugees with in-kind rations.

Nutrition: During the month of January, WFP supported the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition of over 36,000 children aged 6-59 months and PLW in the Boucle du Mouhou, Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, and Sahel regions. Identified cases of malnourished children and PLW were referred to health centres that WFP supplies with nutritional products.

WFP took part in the Global action plan on child wasting (GAP), a framework for action to accelerate progress in preventing and managing child wasting. In Burkina Faso, the initiative aims to develop a joint UN action plan for the drastic reduction of the acute malnutrition prevalence (to less than 5 percent by 2025 and 3 percent by 2030). The process to launch a country roadmap was initiated on 8 January.

Education: 90,752 schoolchildren received daily hot meals and snacks through WFP regular and emergency school feeding activities. In addition, WFP provided 6,549 girls with take-home rations consisting of dry cereals.

WFP continued to support the elaboration of a National School Feeding and Nutrition Strategy in Burkina Faso (2021-2025). The strategy documents were validated at a workshop held on 29 January in Ouagadougou (subject to the updating of statistical data before the adoption).

Resilience: A workshop was held on 14 January between WFP, the Government, and the African Risk Capacity (ARC), whose tripartite partnership aims at extending climate risk insurance in Burkina Faso. All involved parties validated the customization of the Africa Risk View (ARV) software in view of the 2021/2022 agricultural campaign. The ARV is used to calculate weather-related food security risk (based on rainfall, drought, and population’s vulnerability) and to estimate food insecurity response costs.
WFP supported four villages of the Bani commune (Sahel region) with the provision of 40 wooden "top-bar hives" and beekeeping equipment, along with trainings on their use. Top-bar hives allow beekeepers to increase their production of organic honey, in a hygienic and environmentally friendly way. WFP plans to provide three more communities of the Sahel region with 30 additional top-bar hives in the coming weeks.

**Capacity strengthening:** On 27-28 January, an online training was organized on the role of protection in WFP humanitarian response, with support from WFP Regional Bureau. WFP and cooperating partners took part in the training. The training aimed to increase actors’ capacity in ensuring and mainstreaming protection, as well as accountability to affected populations and gender-related issues, throughout programme cycle. Face-to-face sessions will continue during the month of February across WFP sub-offices in Burkina Faso.

**Monitoring/Evaluation**

Results of a remote post distribution monitoring (rPDM) on food and cash assistance to Malian refugees included that: i) 37 percent of the respondents have an acceptable food consumption score (FCS), 23 percent have a borderline FCS and 40 percent have a poor FCS; and ii) 89 percent of the CBT assistance received was used to purchase food. Remaining cash was mainly sold to cater for other needs.

An additional rPDM, assessing food security indicators among IDPs receiving in-kind food assistance, outlined the following key results: 30 percent of the respondents have an acceptable FCS, 40 percent have a borderline FCS, and 30 percent have a poor FCS. Nevertheless, throughout the second semester of 2020, key indicators such as the FCS and livelihood coping strategic index have observed a deterioration. This could be predominately attributed to the impact of COVID-19 on households, especially markets closure, and the reduction of the in-kind ration since July 2020 due to funding breaks.

**United Nations Humanitarian Air Service**

In January, UNHAS conducted eight flights, reaching seven locations, and transporting 41 passengers from five organizations. WFP delivered via UNHAS 4.8 mt of nutritional products (Plumpy’sup) to Pama (Est) for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition among IDPs and host population. The intervention was essential as populations were deprived of assistance for more than six months due to insecurity by road.

**Logistics Cluster**

The storage capacity of the Logistics Cluster facilitated site in Kaya (Centre-Nord) was doubled to 620 m². Sites for the implementation of similar storage facilities were identified in Fada NGourma and Ouahigouya, where the Logistics Cluster plans to start facilitating free-to-users storage services to the humanitarian community in March. A one-page presentation of the Logistics Cluster’s objectives and activities in Burkina Faso was published on the Logistics Cluster webpage.

**Challenges**

While needs continue to grow, the funding outlook for 2021 is not sufficiently improving, leading WFP to develop a prioritization plan to ensure continued assistance for the next six months. This entails reducing both in-kind and cash-based rations as well as the coverage for the next six months. In hard-to-reach areas, WFP will provide a 75 percent ration. In all other locations, WFP will provide a 50 percent ration. WFP urgently requires USD 106 million for the next six months - predominately for the emergency response.