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 30 April 2021, over 1.2 million people had been officially displaced. Food and nutritional security across the country is critical – with over 2 million people facing food insecurity and COVID-19 has added an additional layer of vulnerability to an already fragile situation (Cadre Harmonisé March 2021). Overall, 9.1 percent of children aged 6-59 months suffer from acute malnutrition (2020 SMART National Nutrition Survey).

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 in September 2019. 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 feeding programme and support to a local yogurt production project; treatment and prevention of malnutrition; Food Assistance for Assets for small-scale agriculture; Smallholder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS) programme to support food system value chain development; micro-insurance (R4) and macro-insurance (African Risk Capacity Replica Programme); 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
4,963 mt of food distributed
USD 3.7 million of cash distributed
USD 144.4 million six months (May-October 2021) net funding requirements
872,801 people assisted in April 2021

Operational Updates
Assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs): First introduced in March 2021, the vulnerability-based targeting of IDPs became fully effective in April. This approach enables to reach those most in need, bringing down the target from 800,000 to 600,000 most vulnerable IDPs, classified as poor and very poor. WFP will continue to assist new IDPs unconditionally for three months, during which WFP will undertake all relevant socioeconomic assessments for their targeting.

In April, WFP undertook in-kind food distributions and cash-based transfers (CBT), reaching 570,000 IDPs in the Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Est, Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, and Sahel regions. In addition, 13,521 pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW/Gs) and 33,864 children aged 6-23 months benefited from nutritional support.

Assistance to refugees: Despite high insecurity in the Sahel region, WFP delivered assistance to refugees residing in the town of Djibo and in Goudébou camp (near Dori) in April. A total of 17,749 Malian refugees received lifesaving assistance consisting of nutritious food items and direct cash transfers.

Lean season: Under the auspices of the Food Security Cluster, WFP organised a two-day workshop on 21-22 April, gathering all stakeholders involved in the lean season response [Government, donors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), partners, etc.] to take stock of lessons learned from previous years, and plan the 2021 response.

WFP plans to assist 1.4 million people during the 2021 lean season. To this end, WFP issued an advocacy note, flagging urgent needs and related implications on affected populations if assistance is not provided.


Education: WFP improved the food intake of schoolchildren by providing hot meals and snacks to 131,930 boys and girls and dry take-home rations to 15,501 girls (to provide a nutritional incentive for girls to attend school). Emergency and regular school feeding activities took place in in the Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, and Sahel regions.

Resilience: WFP supported 46,595 households (corresponding to 326,165 beneficiaries) who participated in asset creation activities. WFP provided them with technical assistance and food assistance through CBTs (USD 3 million was distributed during the first trimester of 2021).
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity/Mission</th>
<th>2021 Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Everyone has access to food</td>
<td>330 m</td>
<td>65.2 m</td>
<td>144.4 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 from 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 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 PAP, weather insurance, nutrition-sensitive social safety net data collection and management, to national institutions and partners.

Strategic Result 6: 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 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.
- Provide logistics expertise and coordination services to partners in absence of alternative to ensure humanitarian assistance as well as other supply chain services to support effective and efficient humanitarian response.

WFP launched bootcamps on agricultural practices in the Centre-Nord and Nord regions (Est and Sahel regions will follow in the coming weeks). The objective of this accelerated training is to strengthen the capacity of beneficiaries, staff and partners in the implementation of asset creation activities, by taking into account the evolution of the agro-climatic context and innovations in terms of variety and performance of production.

WFP constructed 14 biodigesters as part of a pilot project in the Sahel region to help communities produce cooking biogas (obtained through the fermentation of organic material) as well as electricity. This allows to reduce the use of firewood, thus preserving the environment, and to protect women from roaming the insecure bush in search of wood. WFP started the evaluation of the project in April, in view of its scale-up and introduction in school canteens.

Capacity strengthening: Eight WFP and partners staff successfully participated in a second session of the online training on frontline humanitarian negotiation, facilitated by the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN) between 19-23 April. A first session was held in February, with 19 participants. Thanks to this initial training, WFP and its partners in Burkina Faso now have a large number of staff who have: (i) basic understanding of humanitarian negotiation; (ii) tools for preparing and implementing dialogues/interactions with stakeholders in the field to facilitate humanitarian access; and (iii) access to the largest formal network of humanitarian negotiators that the CCHN has today.

Monitoring/Evaluation

On 24 April, WFP conducted a multisectoral assessment in Mansila jointly with governmental counterparts and NGOs. Mansila is a locality in the Sahel region enclave due to the conflict, where transport of food commodities by traders and the humanitarian community has been hindered in the last months. As outlined by the mission, the humanitarian situation of the population is critical and deteriorating. A high prevalence of acute malnutrition among children aged 6 to 59 months was noted, health workers have fled, and there is a total lack of nutritional and medical inputs. In coordination with UNICEF and via UNHAS, WFP delivered 3 mt of nutritional products to Mansila’s health centre on 24 and 26 April. WFP is exploring different solutions to deliver food rations for larger-scale food distributions to affected populations.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

In April, 55 UNHAS flights took place to 13 destinations, serving 184 passengers from 16 user organizations. UNHAS performed two reconnaissance and evaluation missions to Sebba and Mansila, offering new destinations in the Sahel region. These locations were chosen based on consultations with UNHAS users, their intervention plans, and the difficulty to reach them through land transport due to insecurity. UNHAS published shared with partners its new routing.

Logistics Cluster

The Logistics Cluster released its Concept of Operations, which includes, amongst others, strategies to focus support and effort to the hard-to-reach areas. The Logistic Cluster also published maps of the road access constraints for the Est and Nord regions.

Challenges

WFP faces urgent funding challenges with respect to the upcoming lean season response. Over USD 144 million are required for the next six months of operations and urgent support is needed to ensure adequate prepositioning in view of the rainy season.

Donors

Donors to WFP Burkina Faso in 2021 include Austria, Burkina Faso, Canada, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Monaco, Sweden, Switzerland, UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), United Kingdom, United States of America and private sector donors.