



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burkina Faso Country Brief

May 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 30 April 2021, over 1.2 million people had been officially displaced. Food and nutritional security across the country is critical – with over 2.8 million people expected to be food insecure during the ongoing lean season (June–August). High food prices 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.



Population: **20.9 million**

2019 Human Development Index ranking: **182 out of 189 countries**

Income Level: **Low**

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

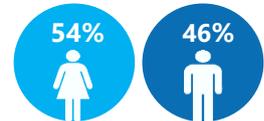
In Numbers

4,069 mt of food distributed

USD 2.2 million of cash distributed

USD 153 million six months (June–November 2021) net funding requirements

740,239 people assisted
in May 2021



Operational Updates

Assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs): The number of IDPs in Burkina Faso continues to rapidly increase and is now over 1.2 million. Food remains the priority need for three quarters of the IDP households. In May, WFP assisted 516,615 IDPs, including new ones who fled due to a recent surge of violence across the country. WFP provided lifesaving assistance to IDPs in the Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Est, Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, and Sahel regions, through in-kind distributions and cash-based transfers (CBT). WFP provided fortified blended food to 47,993 displaced pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW/Gs) and children aged 6–23 months.

Assistance to refugees: The security situation remains very volatile in the Sahel region, including in the area of Dori, where a UNHCR vehicle was attacked by unidentified armed individuals. Nonetheless, WFP managed to undertake CBT distributions in Goudébou camp (located 10 km away from Dori), assisting 10,816 refugees. In addition, refugees residing in Djibo already received their ration entitlement as part of the two-month food distributions conducted in April.

Nutrition: WFP identified 71,567 acutely malnourished PLW/Gs and children aged 6–59 months in the Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, and Sahel regions during the month of May. Malnutrition cases detected at the community level were referred to health centres for appropriate care (or to a community facility in insecure areas), where they received treatment such as enriched flours and ready-to-use food supplements.

In May, in Bourzanga (Centre-Nord), WFP launched the first e-voucher distributions of a regional project for the Central Sahel further strengthening the links between nutrition and resilience activities. This assistance enabled displaced and host communities to procure locally produced nutritional products (for children aged 6–23 months and PLW/Gs) which are otherwise difficult to afford. WFP plans to extend this programme to other localities of the Centre-Nord and Sahel regions by the end of June

WFP continued to implement an integrated resilience approach in Bani (Sahel) combining resilience, education, and nutrition. WFP initiated on 24 May the census and screening of children aged 6–23 months to prevent their malnutrition during the pastoral lean season (April–July). Children will be provided with specialised nutritious foods and those identified as malnourished will be referred to health centres. WFP also put in place new mothers support groups where awareness-raising and screening for acute malnutrition take place every month.

Education: WFP continued to support schoolchildren with nutritious food, so they are healthy and ready to learn. 68,339 boys and 68,016 girls benefited from WFP emergency and regular school feeding activities implemented in the Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, and Sahel regions. 11,661 girls received additional dry take-home rations, to keep them from dropping out of school.

Main photo: Credit: WFP/ Zakaria Konfe

Caption: First beneficiary to receive assistance through e-voucher distributions launched in Bourzanga (Centre-Nord region).

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
330 m	74 m	153 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 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.

Social protection: WFP provided CBT assistance to 698 vulnerable households (4,886 beneficiaries) targeted by government social safety nets and residing in peri-urban neighbourhoods of Ouagadougou. Further activities under this new project will include capacity strengthening for adolescent girls.

Resilience: WFP supported the [building of a dyke](#) made from local materials in the Est region, with the aim of realising a micro-dam (with a capacity of 200,000 m³ of water). This multifunctional micro-dam will allow: (i) restoration of the ecosystem and biodiversity; (ii) increase in the area for rainfed and off-season production; and (iii) water access for the livestock. Benefits for the communities include strengthened social cohesion and improved livelihoods, thus reducing the risk of rural-urban migration. A total of 140 participants, composed of 83 percent of women and representing 980 beneficiaries, received a total of USD 11,315 for their work. WFP also mobilized some 5,600 beneficiaries in several localities of the Centre-Nord region to develop a total of 80 ha lowlands, which will be used for rice production. This contributes to the government's initiative to produce one million mt of rice in 2021 as part of its efforts to achieve food self-sufficiency.

WFP organised a study trip for beneficiaries of "compostaterres" (plant shredders harnessed to a tricycle) from the Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, and Sahel regions, from 18 to 21 May in Ouahigouya (Nord). This gave them the opportunity to share practices and exchange on their various expertise and initiatives, in order to capitalise on the results obtained in the different composting sites.

Capacity strengthening: WFP provided support to the Executive Secretariat of the National Food Security Council (SE-CNSA) for an in-depth diagnosis of the National Food and Nutrition Security System's functioning. This system has three main components: (i) a decision-making body represented by the Government; (ii) a consultation body composed of all stakeholders (Government, technical and financial partners, civil society); and (iii) a governmental food crisis prevention and management mechanism. The diagnosis process will come together with recommendations for better prevention and management of food and nutrition crises in Burkina Faso.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

In May, 154 passengers from 15 user organizations took 59 UNHAS flights to 10 localities. The eligibility criteria to register to UNHAS Burkina Faso was amended on 24 May: development and peace actors now can also use its services, in addition to humanitarian partners.

Logistics Cluster

The Logistics Cluster installed a second Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) in Kaya (Centre-Nord), which increases the available common storage capacity for the humanitarian community up to 907m². Besides, two tents of 32m² were loaned to the Government for the COVID-19 vaccination campaign, starting on 2 June.

Monitoring/Evaluation

According to a joint [market bulletin](#), published by WFP and the National Food Security Stock Management Entity (SONAGESS), a difficult agricultural lean season is expected in 2021. Cereals have all recorded average increases of around 30 percent compared to last year. High prices are reducing the access of poor and very poor households to staple food. As prices are foreseen to continue to rise gradually until September, the food situation of the most vulnerable households will deteriorate sharply during the lean season.

Challenges

For the 2021 lean season, WFP will continue to distribute reduced rations to affected populations, due to the lack of resources. This may have dire impact on the lives of fragile and vulnerable populations taking into account growing food prices – above the five-year average. Without additional confirmed contributions, for emergency activities, WFP will be forced to halt all CBT distributions in September and for in-kind distributions in November.