WFP Burkina Faso
Country Brief
January 2022

Operational Context
Burkina Faso is a semi-arid country in the Sahel, with 40 percent of the population living below the poverty line. Most people depend 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 significant population displacement. As of 31 December 2021, over 1.5 million people were officially displaced.

Food and nutritional security across the country is critical – with over 2.6 million people expected to be food insecure during the 2022 lean season (June-August). High food prices and COVID-19 added an additional layer of complexity to an already vulnerable population. 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 declared a Level 3 emergency in the three Central Sahel countries in September 2019.

WFP operations in Burkina Faso include emergency food assistance, school feeding, treatment and prevention of malnutrition, resilience building activities through food assistance for assets (FFA), smallholder agriculture market support (SAMS) and micro-macro insurance (R4) programmes, national capacity strengthening, logistics and common services, and the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS). WFP has been present in Burkina Faso since 1967.

In Numbers
5,823 mt of food distributed
USD 73,597 of cash distributed
USD 133 million six months (February 2022-July 2022) net funding requirements
677,991 people assisted in January 2022

Operational Updates
Political update and impact on operations: The 24 January military coup did not stop WFP operations, in line with its commitment to support vulnerable populations, but it forced WFP to slow down its activities.

The political events especially impacted: (i) social protection and country capacity strengthening activities, as main partners and direct beneficiaries of activities are Government institutions; and (ii) the timeline of cash-based transfers (CBT) payments to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and resilience beneficiaries. As a result, WFP will transfer entitlements for January and February together, to be distributed next month.

Of the 250,000 planned beneficiaries to receive conditional food/cash transfers in January, 202,000 or 80 percent received CBT or food assistance. Cash transfers to vulnerable adolescence girls and their families in the para-urban sector of Ouagadougou continued. Malted children and their mothers continued to receive food vouchers supported by the regional project CRIALCES. Food distributions were carried out for IDPs, resilience beneficiaries, and schoolchildren.

Assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs): In January, WFP supported 439,196 IDPs (229,856 women; 209,340 men) to meet their food needs, with food commodities distributed in the Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Est, Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, and Sahel regions. WFP also provided nutritional supplements to 46,293 pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLW/Gs) and children (aged 6-23 months) within the same targeted populations as these are particularly at risk of malnutrition.

WFP conducted a series of emergency rapid responses (some of them jointly with other United Nations agencies) in hard-to-reach areas, following waves of displacements due to the conflicts. WFP assisted more than 80,000 new IDPs in the Centre-Nord, Est, and Sahel regions.

Nutrition: In the Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, and Sahel regions, a total of 72,747 moderately acutely malnourished children (aged 6-59 months) and PLW/Gs were detected and referred to health centres for treatment.

In the framework of the CRIALCES project, WFP enhanced the nutritional status of 4,200 beneficiaries consisting of children (aged 6-59 months) and PLW/Gs with nutritious food baskets, while strengthening livelihoods and transforming food systems. Through this project, WFP has been supporting the production of fortified flours at the local level and its regulatory framework at the national level.

Resilience: WFP distributed 921 mt of in-kind food to about 3,000 participants (half of them women) of the asset creation work realised in December, in the Centre-Nord region. This assistance benefited an estimated 21,000 people, given that households in Burkina Faso consist of an average of seven members. In the same region, key achievements of the January Food For Asset (FFA) activities included the digging of two boulis (of 3,000 m³) and the excavation of two other boulis of (27,000 m³). A bouli is an artificial pond retaining runoff water. This technique is originating in Burkina Faso and is also used in other Sahelian countries.

Main photo: Credit: WFP/ Cheick Omar Bandaogo
Caption: An IDP girl carrying home the food assistance she has received (Nord).
Contact info: Florine Jobin (florine.jobin@wfp.org)
Country Director: Antoine Renard
WFP Country Strategy

**Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2022 Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>2022 Available Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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<tr>
<td>339.2 m</td>
<td>92.9 m</td>
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**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:** Nutritional vulnerability 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 IFF, 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.

WFP conducted Smallholder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS) activities in the Est region. These included trainings of: (i) 180 members of cooperative societies (including 70 percent women) on market research techniques; (ii) 16 heads of cooperative societies (including 60 percent women) on leadership skills; (iii) 140 members of women's rice processing cooperatives on parboiling; and (iv) 115 women members of a peanut production and processing cooperative on the use of “Aflasafe” (a certified biological control product which prevents aflatoxin contamination).

**Social protection:** As part of its safety net programme whose focus is on empowering vulnerable adolescent girls residing in the peri-urban neighbourhoods of Ouagadougou, WFP supported 8,685 households with CBT assistance.

**Education:** Attacks by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) led to the closure of 3,200 schools (13 percent of the schools in the country) so far, depriving over 500,000 children of education. WFP has established strong partnerships with several stakeholders to create synergies and complement assistance in this highly volatile context.

Despite the insecurity, WFP supported a total of 137,877 schoolchildren (69,733 girls; 68,144 boys) in January via its regular and emergency school feeding programmes, in the Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, and Sahel regions. WFP encouraged the attendance of girls by providing monthly family take-home rations, made up of 10 kg of dry cereals, to almost 25,000 schoolgirls.

Harvesting began in 20 school gardens in the Sahel region, in collaboration with the Regional Directorates in charge of agriculture and education. The ongoing production will contribute to improving the nutritional quality and diversifying school meals. It consists of vegetables (cabbage, tomatoes, onions, eggplant), tubers (sweet potato with orange flesh), and fruits (papaya). Due to insecurity, other school gardens previously developed by WFP in the region are either inaccessible or the schools to which they are linked are closed.

**United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)**

As a result of the coup, UNHAS was forced to temporarily halt its operations from 24 January. Until then, UNHAS operated this month 91 flights to 18 locations, transported 368 passengers plus 2.2 mt of cargo, and served 34 user organisations (7 UN Agencies, 25 NGOs, and 2 donors). It is thanks to UNHAS special flights that WFP could undertake various emergency rapid responses to displacements in enclave areas.

**Logistics Cluster**

The Logistics Cluster initiated a data collection exercise along with its humanitarian partners, to update the existing physical access constraints maps (for the Boucle du Mouhoun Centre-Est, Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, and Sahel regions) and to undertake the cartography of new regions such as the Cascades and Hauts-Bassins. This activity is part of a national mapping project which includes various stakeholders including WFP, as well as the Geographical Institute of Burkina Faso (IGB) and the Ministry of Infrastructures - consistently with the localisation approach.

**Assessment**

The nutrition situation has continued to deteriorate in the past months, according to the latest IPC malnutrition analysis (conducted in November 2021 and published in January 2022). Approximately 699,000 children aged 6-59 months will likely be acutely malnourished through July 2022, 10 percent more compared to the November 2020 analysis. Some 163,000 PLW/Gs will likely be acutely malnourished during the same period, 25 percent more than the previous year. Population displacement and the closure or dysfunction of health facilities in insecure areas further compound the situation.

**Challenges**

While the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate in Burkina Faso, WFP urgently needs further contributions to sustain its lifesaving and lifechanging operations.