



WFP Burkina Faso Country Brief

November 2022

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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. Insecurity continues to deteriorate across all regions of Burkina Faso, resulting in mass population displacement. As of 31 October 2022, over 1.7 million people were officially displaced in the country.

Driven by conflict and violence, floods and rising food prices, the food and nutritional security across the country remains critical. An estimated 2,618,600 people are acutely food insecure (IPC phase 3-5) between October and December 2022 – representing a 59 percent increase compared to the same period last year. For the first time since the Cadre Harmonisé analysis was introduced in the country, there are over 1,810 people are facing catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity (IPC phase 5), all of whom in the province of Soum (Sahel region). Overall, 9.7 percent of children aged 6-59 months suffer from acute malnutrition (2021 SMART National Nutrition Survey).

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.



Population: **21.5 million**

2021 Human Development Index ranking: **184 out of 191 countries**

Income level: **low income**

Chronic malnutrition: **21.6 percent of children aged 6-59 months**

Photo credit: WFP/ Cheick Omar Bandaogo

Caption: Mother and her youngest son hold a bag of Super Cereal Plus they had received during WFP's food distribution in Ouahigouya (Nord region).

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In Numbers

1,530 mt of food distributed

USD 5.3 million cash-based transfers made

USD 75.3 million six-month (December 2022-May 2023) net funding requirements

878,410 people assisted* in November 2022



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

In November, violent conflict, population displacement, and blockades imposed by non-state armed groups continued to drive hunger and malnutrition levels to unprecedented highs in Burkina Faso. The urgent humanitarian needs of crisis-affected people continued to remain largely unaddressed due to lack or limited humanitarian access caused by insecurity. Delivering life-saving assistance by air remains the safest, fastest and often the only solution in several locations, including the blockaded towns of Djibo, Sebba, Titao, Pama and Diapaga where about 600,000 people are trapped. Blockades have a devastating impact on the lives of trapped populations, including a sharp deterioration in their hunger and nutrition status.

The [Cadre Harmonisé](#) (CH) analysis of November 2022 confirmed the dire nature of the humanitarian situation. Over 2.6 million people are estimated to be acutely food insecure (IPC phase 3-5) between October and December 2022 – representing a 59 percent increase compared to the same period last year. For the first time since the CH analysis was introduced in the country in 2013, over **1,810 people are estimated to be facing catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity** (IPC phase 5), all of whom in the province of Soum (Sahel region) where the blockaded town of Djibo is located.

As of 31 October, **1.7 million Burkinabè have been forced to flee their homes** according to [data](#) released by the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR). Worryingly, 60 percent of these internally displaced persons (IDPs) were children. Furthermore, about 1.5 to 2 million people live in hard-to-reach areas and blockaded towns.

While the humanitarian situation becomes increasingly dire, the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Burkina Faso (with a total requirement of USD 805 million) remains heavily underfunded at only 35 percent as of 9 December according to [OCHA](#). **The food security pillar of the HRP was funded at only 40 percent.** Overall, 4.9 million people (almost 25 percent of the country's total population) need some form of humanitarian assistance.

Assistance to IDPs: According to data released by CONASUR, the regions most affected by forced displacement (Sahel, Centre-Nord, Nord, and Est) host almost 1.4 million IDPs (or 80 percent of total IDPs). Attacks on civilians by non-state armed groups continued to trigger forced displacements. In November, WFP provided unconditional assistance to 606,200 IDPs through in-kind food assistance and cash-based transfers. Accessing the blockaded towns of Djibo, Pama, and Titao by helicopter, WFP delivered 240 mt of life-saving assistance. WFP's current helicopter capacity falls short of the logistics needs required to respond at scale to the dire humanitarian situation in blockaded towns. For this reason, WFP is scaling up its air and land transport capacity, requiring additional USD 22 million for three months.

School feeding: In November, WFP's school feeding activities continued to support vulnerable schoolchildren, including those forcibly displaced. In the Sahel and Plateau Central regions, WFP provided hot meals to 30,840 (50 percent girls) in 55 schools, as well as take-home rations to 2,090 girls. Through its emergency school feeding activity implemented in the Sahel, Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Nord, Nord, and Est regions, WFP provided hot meals to 169,800 schoolchildren (50 percent girls) in 434 schools, as well as take-home rations to 24,700 girls.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2022 Total Requirements (in USD)	2022 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
339 m	281.6 m	75.3 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 alternatives to ensure humanitarian assistance as well as other supply chain services to support effective and efficient humanitarian response.

Nutrition: In November, WFP's moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment programme provided over 120 mt of specialized nutritious foods to 15,320 children aged 6-59 months (52 percent girls), and 10,020 pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWGs). WFP's MAM activities targeted the Sahel, Nord, Est, Centre-Nord, Centre-Est and Boucle de Mouhoun regions.

Targeting IDPs and host populations, WFP's malnutrition prevention activity reached 33,820 children aged 6-23 months (52 percent girls), and 7,970 PLWGs. As part of the World Bank-financed malnutrition prevention project, WFP provided lipid-based nutritional supplements (LNS) to 95,230 children aged 6-23 months (54 percent girls). In the framework of the Response to the Food Crisis in the Central Sahel (CRIALCES) project, WFP contributed to the prevention of malnutrition among 4,220 children aged 6-23 months (53 percent girls) and 3,040 PLWGs through vouchers in Sahel and Centre-Nord regions. The [CRIALCES](#) is based on a food systems approach that improves the nutritional status of vulnerable women and children by boosting the local production and processing of safe and affordable nutritious foods.

Resilience: Targeting the regions of Sahel, Nord, Centre-Nord and Est, WFP's integrated resilience programme continued to strengthen vulnerable communities' resilience in the face of shocks and stressors. In November, WFP and assisted communities resumed food assistance for assets (FFA) activities, informed by community-based participatory planning (CBPP) exercises. A total of 340 hectares of degraded land were rehabilitated, 43 hectares of lowland were developed, and one water pond with a capacity of 3,000 cubic metres was built. In the Nord and Est regions, WFP distributed cash-based transfers to 5,900 people participating in FFA activities that benefit over 41,000 people. To strengthen local capacities, WFP trained its cooperating partners in the CBPP approach and tools to integrate social cohesion into the design of resilience activities. As part of the CRIALCES project, WFP organized workshops to connect farmers, food processors and traders to boost the availability of nutritious foods on markets.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

From 1 to 30 November, UNHAS transported 1,867 passengers and 294 mt of light cargo through 526 flights. The air service was provided to 78 user organisations (78 percent NGO; 21 percent UN; 1 percent donor and diplomatic) and reached 24 destinations across Burkina Faso.

Research, Assessment and Monitoring

The latest Cadre Harmonisé analysis of November 2022 projects that the number of acutely food insecure people (IPC phase 3-5) during the 2023 lean season (June-August) will increase to 3,533,220 people – a record high number for Burkina Faso. Worryingly, this projection includes over **19,860 people in phase 5 (catastrophe)**, located in the Sahel region. The most affected regions, both in the current and projected periods, are the Centre-Nord, Est, Sahel, Nord and Boucle du Mouhoun regions, altogether accounting for 75 percent of the acutely food-insecure people.

Carried out in September-October by WFP and Burkina Faso's national society for the management of food security stocks (SONAGESS), the joint market monitoring exercise showed that the average price of basic cereals fell in October as a result of improved market supply, but remained high compared to previous years (51 percent increase compared to 2021 and 73 percent increase compared to the five-year average). Worryingly, markets are no longer functioning and basic foodstuffs are almost non-existent in blockaded towns such as Djibo, Sebba and Pama.

Challenges

Humanitarian access to the most vulnerable population continued to be hampered due to the volatile security context. Security challenges continued to cause delays in distributions. WFP's six-month (December 2022 – May 2023) **net funding requirements in Burkina Faso amount to USD 75.3 million**. The funding requirement for crisis response activities is USD 57.8 million.

Donors

Donors to WFP Burkina Faso in 2022 include Canada, China, Denmark European Commission, France, Germany, Government of Burkina Faso, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and The United States of America. Additional support was provided by UN CERF, Global Partnerships for Education, the SDF fund and private donors.