



WFP Burkina Faso Country Brief January 2023

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 January 2023, over 1.9 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. According to the Cadre Harmonisé analysis from November 2022, an estimated 2.6 million people were acutely food insecure (IPC phase 3-5) between October and December 2022 – representing a 59 percent increase compared to the same period in 2021. This included over 1,800 people 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	Human Development Index rank (2021): 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: WFP Chinook helicopter positioned at Ouagadougou airport.
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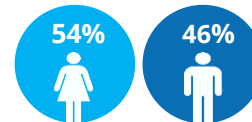
In Numbers

1,500 mt of food distributed

USD 1 million cash-based transfers made

USD 66 million six-month (February-July 2023) net funding requirements

454,000 people assisted* in January 2023



*Preliminary figures

Operational Updates

In January, conflict, internal displacement, and the isolation of localities by non-state armed groups continued to be the key drivers of hunger and malnutrition in Burkina Faso. Tragically, civilians remained targets of abductions and deadly attacks. Humanitarian access challenges persisted due to conflict dynamics, rampant insecurity, and restrictive measures by authorities. Over 20 towns and localities remained isolated where nearly 900,000 people were trapped and left with limited access to essential supplies, markets, and basic social services, primarily in the Sahel, Centre-Nord, Nord, and Est regions. In this constrained operating environment, delivering emergency assistance by air remained the safest, fastest, and the only solution in several locations.

During the course of 2022, over 300,000 Burkinabè were newly displaced, raising the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to 1.9 million by 31 January 2023 according to CONASUR. The regions most affected by forced displacement (Sahel, Centre-Nord, Nord, and Est) host 76 percent of total IDPs. In addition to facing serious challenges in meeting their basic food and nutrition needs, IDPs – most of whom are children and women - remain exposed to severe protection risks, including gender-based violence, exploitation, forced labour, early marriage, and recruitment by non-state armed groups. Insecurity forced thousands of schools to close, depriving over 1 million children of their right to education.

In 2023, 4.7 million people will need humanitarian assistance in Burkina Faso as highlighted in the [Global Humanitarian Overview](#) (GHO). Targeting 3.1 million people, the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan requires USD 877 million to provide a multisectoral response to the crisis. Moreover, the Cadre Harmonisé analysis from November 2022 projects that 3.5 million people will be acutely food insecure during the agricultural lean season of 2023 (June-August) and 19,000 people will face catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity (IPC phase 5).

Operational scale-up: With continued access constraints hindering the humanitarian response, in January WFP deployed two Chinook helicopters to Burkina Faso to scale up its airlift capacity – a precondition for delivering higher volumes of emergency food assistance to areas inaccessible by road. This operation is envisaged for an initial period of three months. At the same time, WFP is deploying a dedicated fleet of 25 trucks to access areas where commercial transporters are reluctant to operate.

Emergency assistance: In January, WFP provided unconditional in-kind food assistance to nearly 68,700 people, including IDPs, refugees and host communities. Accessing the blockaded towns of Djibo, Pama, Mansila, and Tankoulou by helicopter, WFP delivered 347 mt of life-saving assistance for the benefit of 50,500 people.

School feeding: In January, WFP's school feeding activities continued to support vulnerable schoolchildren, including those forcibly displaced by the conflict. In the Sahel and Plateau-Central regions, WFP provided hot meals to 33,400 schoolchildren (50 percent girls) in 103 schools, as well as take-home rations to 1,200 schoolgirls. Through its emergency school feeding activity implemented in the Sahel, Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Nord, Nord, and Est regions, WFP provided hot meals to 185,400 schoolchildren (50 percent girls) in 458 schools, as well as take-home rations to 17,400 schoolgirls.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2022 Total Requirements (in USD)	2022 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
339 m	356 m	66 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 January, WFP's moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment programme reached 53,900 children aged 6-59 months (52 percent girls), and 21,200 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. Not reachable by road, WFP delivered 11 metric tons of specialized nutritious foods to Diapaga by air.

WFP's malnutrition prevention activity reached 9,800 children aged 6-23 months (52 percent girls), and 14,300 PLWGs. Nearly 13,000 young children were screened for malnutrition, with 750 moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 175 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases detected. As part of the World Bank-financed project to prevent chronic malnutrition, WFP provided lipid-based nutritional supplements (LNS) to 29,900 children aged 6-23 months (52 percent girls) in Boucle du Mouhoun and Centre-Nord regions.

Resilience: Targeting the regions of Sahel, Nord, Centre-Nord, Est, and Plateau-Central, WFP's integrated resilience programme continued to build vulnerable communities' resilience to shocks and stressors, including climate change. In January, WFP's food assistance for assets (FFA) activities reached nearly 6,600 FFA participants, providing them with cash-based transfers for their work. Over 1,500 hectares of degraded land were rehabilitated to improve agricultural production (for example by creating half-moons or digging zai holes), and three water ponds were built (each with a capacity of 3,000 cubic metres) to improve irrigation and livestock feeding. In addition, WFP and assisted communities began to plan resilience activities for 2023 using community-based participatory planning exercises.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

From 1 to 31 January, UNHAS transported 1,876 passengers and 44 mt of light cargo through 311 flights. The air service was provided to 83 user organisations (88 percent NGO; 9 percent UN; 3 percent donor and diplomatic) and reached 23 destinations across Burkina Faso.

Research, Assessment and Monitoring

The latest [IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis](#) shows a deterioration in the country's nutrition situation. Covering 31 provinces of the country's 45 provinces due to limited or no humanitarian access, the analysis estimated that nearly 400,000 children under the age of five will likely suffer from acute malnutrition at national level between August 2022 and July 2023. Of these, nearly a quarter are expected to experience severe acute malnutrition. Furthermore, 80,000 pregnant and lactating women are also expected to be acutely malnourished in this period.

Challenges

On 11 January 2023, three days after launching airlifts with the newly deployed Chinook helicopter, WFP was requested by authorities to suspend airlifts with Chinooks. On 20 January, authorities granted the permission to resume the Chinook airlift operations, enabling WFP to continue the delivery of emergency food assistance to areas inaccessible by road. At the same time, WFP and the authorities began drafting a Memorandum of Understanding to define roles and responsibilities for WFP Chinook airlift operations.

Humanitarian access to the most vulnerable populations continued to be hampered due to the security context and administrative impediments.

WFP's six-month (February – July 2023) **net funding requirements in Burkina Faso amount to USD 66 million.**

Donors

Donors to WFP Burkina Faso in 2023 include Austria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, and The United States of America. Additional support was provided by UN CERF, Global Partnerships for Education, the SDF fund and private donors.