

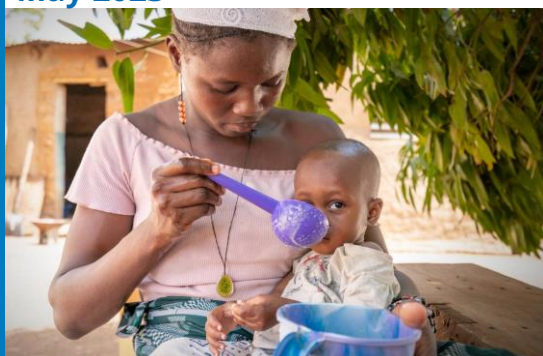


World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP Burkina Faso Country Brief

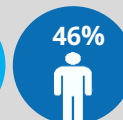
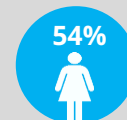
May 2023



## In Numbers

**703,400 people assisted\***  
in May 2023

\*Preliminary figures



**USD 1.8 million** cash-based transfers made

**3,320 mt** of food distributed

**USD 95 million** six-month (Jun - Nov 2023) net funding requirements

## Operational Context

Burkina Faso is a semi-arid country in the Sahel, with 40 percent of its 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 March 2023, over 2 million people were officially displaced in the country.

Driven mostly by conflict and violence, the food and nutritional security across the country remains critical. According to the Cadre Harmonisé analysis from March 2023, an estimated 2.6 million people are acutely food insecure (IPC phase 3-5) between March and May 2023. During the lean season period (June-August 2023) this number will rise to 3.4 million people. Worryingly, this projection includes almost 43,000 people in phase 5 (catastrophe).

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 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: **22 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

## Operational Updates

In May, armed conflict, internal displacement, and the blockade of nearly 30 localities by armed groups continued to drive hunger and malnutrition in Burkina Faso. In the midst of widespread insecurity and a shrinking humanitarian space, delivering emergency food assistance by air remained the safest, fastest and only solution in the hardest-to-reach areas. Prompting WFP to seek alternative supply routes, Dori – the capital of Sahel region – became more isolated as the main roads leading to the town are being cut off by armed groups, undermining people's access to water, electricity, and basic commodities.

In their [Hunger Hotspots report](#), FAO and WFP elevated the Sahel region (Burkina Faso and Mali) to the category of "hotspot of highest concern", emphasizing that targeted humanitarian action is urgently needed to save lives and livelihoods, and to prevent starvation and death. The already catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity are expected to worsen during the upcoming lean season when thousands of people are projected to face Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) in Burkina Faso (42,700 people), and Mali (2,500 people).

While the humanitarian situation remains dire, available funding is outpaced by the needs. As of 31 May, the Humanitarian Response Plan was [funded](#) at only 19 percent, while the food security pillar was largely underfunded at only 8 percent of its respective funding requirement.

WFP continues to rely on airlifts to deliver life-saving food assistance to the hardest-to-reach areas inaccessible by road. In May, two of the three WFP-contracted Chinook helicopters completed their operation in Burkina Faso. To compensate for their capacity, one Mi-26 helicopter is being deployed to the country. The transport capacity of the Mi-26 will be twice as big as that of one single Chinook. WFP is engaging with the relevant ministries and the national civil aviation authority to obtain the necessary overflight and landing permits. In the meantime, WFP is identifying landing zones suitable for the operation.

**Emergency assistance:** WFP's crisis response prioritized the most acutely food-insecure areas, particularly those communities which were blockaded by armed groups. In May, WFP provided unconditional in-kind food assistance to 301,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 14,850 refugees, as well as cash assistance to 159,000 IDPs. As part of the scale-up to reach severely food insecure people in hard-to-reach areas and blockaded towns, WFP helicopters airlifted 1,250 mt of life-saving food and nutrition assistance to five localities across Sahel, Nord, Centre-Nord, and Est regions – 40 percent of which was delivered to Djibo. The airlifted food was a lifeline for 113,220 people, including 5,100 children aged 6-23 months and 4,360 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) for malnutrition prevention.

**School feeding:** In May, WFP's school meals programme continued to support vulnerable schoolchildren, including those internally displaced by the ongoing conflict. In the Sahel, Plateau-Central, Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Nord, Nord, and Est regions, WFP provided hot meals to 65,000 schoolchildren (52 percent girls) in 253 schools, as well as conditional take-home rations to 9,900 schoolgirls to improve their school attendance. WFP's emergency school feeding activity in the Sahel, Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Nord, Nord, and Est regions, WFP provided hot meals to 136,000 schoolchildren (51 percent girls) in 381 schools, and take-home rations to 18,100 schoolgirls.

**Photo credit:** WFP/ Désiré Ouedraogo

**Caption:** Young mother feeding her malnourished child with specialized nutritious food in Fada N'Gourma (Est region).

**Contact info:** Lorenzo Tacchella ([lorenzo.tacchella@wfp.org](mailto:lorenzo.tacchella@wfp.org))

**Country Director:** Elvira Pruscini ([elvira.pruscini@wfp.org](mailto:elvira.pruscini@wfp.org))

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2023 Total Requirements (in USD)	2023 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
345 m	260 m	95 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 May, WFP's moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment programme reached 45,500 children aged 6-59 months (49 percent girls), and 35,500 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG). WFP's MAM activities targeted Sahel, Nord, Est, Centre-Nord, Centre-Est, and Boucle de Mouhoun regions.

WFP's malnutrition prevention activity reached 20,500 children aged 6-23 months (52 percent girls), and 13,200 PLWGs – all of them internally displaced. Nearly 21,380 young children were screened for malnutrition, with 102 MAM and 23 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 64,000 children aged 6-23 months (52 percent girls) in Boucle du Mouhoun and Centre-Nord regions.

**Resilience:** Targeting Sahel, Nord, Centre-Nord, Est, and Plateau-Central regions, WFP's integrated resilience programme continued to build vulnerable communities' resilience to shocks and stressors, while also contributing to social cohesion. In May, 6,500 people (60 percent women) participated in WFP's food assistance for assets (FFA) activities to create and rehabilitate productive agricultural assets. Around 5,230 individuals received cash assistance in exchange for their work, while the assistance also benefitted their households (over 31,000 members). Through these activities, 410 hectares of degraded land were rehabilitated to enhance agricultural productivity, 26 hectares of lowlands were developed, 2,100 m<sup>3</sup> of compost were produced to improve soil fertility, and two artificial water ponds (locally known as bouli, each with a capacity of 3,000 m<sup>3</sup>) were created to retain rainwater for irrigation and vegetation growth.

## United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

In May, UNHAS helicopters transported 2,432 passengers and 138 mt of light cargo through 107 flights. The air service was provided to 92 user organisations (85 percent NGO; 15 percent UN; 1 percent donor and diplomatic) and reached 24 destinations across Burkina Faso. The town of Dédougou was served as a new ad hoc destination. Two flights were cancelled, one for technical and another for security reasons.

In collaboration with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, UNHAS transported 765,000 doses of vaccines (COVID-19 and other) to ten hard-to-reach districts in the country, supporting the Ministry of Health's vaccination campaign.

## Research, Assessment and Monitoring

In May, a joint [market monitor](#) was published by WFP and Burkina Faso's National Food Security Stock Management Company (SONAGESS). Covering the month of April, the market monitor noted that cereal availability was good on all functional markets monitored. In the northern and eastern parts of the country several markets were no longer functional or were operating at minimum capacity due to insecurity and the blockades by armed groups.

## Challenges

The suspension of cash-based assistance in Sahel and Centre-Nord regions remains effective to date, and continues to represent a serious impediment to the humanitarian response. These two conflict-affected regions host nearly 1 million IDPs (50 percent of all IDPs). The Cash Working Group continues to engage with the authorities to advocate for the lifting of the suspension. WFP's June-August lean season response aimed to assist over 510,000 beneficiaries with cash-based transfers in the said regions. Shifting to in-kind food distributions also poses significant logistical challenges given the high access constraints affecting the Sahel and Centre-Nord.

WFP's six-month (June – November 2023) **net funding requirements in Burkina Faso amount to USD 95 million.**

## Donors

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