**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 (CH) analysis from March 2023, an estimated 2.6 million people are acutely food insecure (CH Phases 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, smallholder agriculture market support and micro-macro insurance programmes, national capacity strengthening, logistics and common services, and the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service. WFP has been present in Burkina Faso since 1967.

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**In Numbers**

- **542,900 people assisted**
  - *Preliminary figures*
- **USD 1.2 million** cash-based transfers made
- **2,950 mt** of food distributed
- **USD 97 million** six-month (July - December 2023) net funding requirements

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**Operational Updates**

The armed conflict in Burkina Faso continues to cause new and protracted displacement, disrupts livelihoods and food production, deprives people of basic social services, and exacerbates social tension. By June, 27 towns and localities were under armed blockade, with about 900,000 people left with extremely limited access to essential supplies. FEWS NET warns that Djibo will continue to face emergency levels of acute food insecurity (Cadre Harmonisé/CH Phase 4) during the lean season, while food assistance is the primary factor preventing famine (CH Phase 5). Hunger will only decrease marginally during the post-harvest period between October and January, thus emergency levels are expected to remain. The analysis warns that famine could occur if aid deliveries are severely disrupted - whether due to interference from armed groups, WFP's reduced helicopter capacity or delays in obtaining flight authorisations.

WFP continues to rely on airlifts to deliver life-saving food assistance to the hardest-to-reach areas inaccessible by road. After the departure of two Chinook helicopters in May 2023, one Mi-26 was deployed to Burkina Faso on 30 June to support WFP's airlift operation. Having received landing and overflight clearances from Burkinabe civil aviation authorities, the heavy-lift helicopter will begin to airlift food in July.

**Emergency assistance:** WFP's crisis response prioritized the most acutely food-insecure areas, particularly those communities which were blocked by armed groups. WFP provided unconditional in-kind food assistance to 343,000 internally displaced persons. As part of the scale-up to reach severely food insecure people in hard-to-reach areas and blocked towns, WFP helicopters airlifted 818 mt of life-saving food and nutrition assistance to five localities across Sahel, Nord, Est, and Boucle du Mouhoun regions – 64 percent of which was delivered to Djibo. The airlifted food was a lifeline for 72,350 people, including 4,690 children aged 6-23 months and 4,970 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) for malnutrition prevention.

**Lean season:** Responding to acute food security needs aggravated by the lean season (June-August), WFP continues to mobilize funds to reach 1.3 million people with emergency assistance, targeting the country's most food-insecure regions (Sahel, Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, and Boucle du Mouhoun). With the current funding, WFP is forced to prioritize assistance to 647,000 people in CH Phases 4 and 5, with full rations. If additional funds are secured, WFP would be able to extend its lean season assistance to 632,000 people in CH Phase 3, with reduced rations.

**School feeding:** WFP's school meal programme continued to support vulnerable schoolchildren, including those internally displaced by the ongoing conflict. WFP provided hot meals to 29,430 schoolchildren (52 percent girls) in 51 schools, as well as conditional take-home rations to 4,260 schoolgirls to improve their school attendance. Targeting schools with high numbers of internally displaced schoolchildren, WFP's emergency school feeding activity provided hot meals to 36,360 schoolchildren (51 percent girls) in 99 schools, and take-home rations to 4,510 schoolgirls.

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**Photo credit:** WFP / Jamshed Ahrorov

**Caption:** Mi-26 heavy-lift helicopter deployed to Burkina Faso in support of WFP's airlift operation to deliver life-saving food assistance.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Result</th>
<th>Strategic Outcome</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Focus area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1: Everyone has access to food</td>
<td>Strategic Result 1:</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Crisis Response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2: No one suffers from malnutrition</td>
<td>Strategic Result 2:</td>
<td>Provide school meals to vulnerable children during the primary school year, in targeted areas have access to adequate and nutritious food all year-round.</td>
<td>Resilience Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3: Food systems are sustainable</td>
<td>Strategic Result 4:</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Resilience Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5: Countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs</td>
<td>Strategic Result 5:</td>
<td>Support beneficiaries through the provision of specialized nutritious food and integrated programmes (including SBCC) to manage acute malnutrition and prevent stunting.</td>
<td>Resilience Building</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2023 Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>2023 Available Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>486 million</td>
<td>263 million</td>
<td>97 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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, in targeted areas have access to adequate and nutritious food all year-round, 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 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 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 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 PAP, weather insurance, nutrition-sensitive social safety net data collection and management, to national institutions and partners.

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: WFP's moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment programme reached 40,740 children aged 6-59 months (51 percent girls), and 24,380 PBWG. WFP's malnutrition prevention activity reached 14,900 children aged 6-23 months (50 percent girls), and 11,530 PBWG. Nearly 15,400 children aged 6-59 months were screened for malnutrition, with 279 MAM and 32 severe acute malnutrition cases detected. As part of the World Bank-financed project to prevent chronic malnutrition, WFP provided lipid-based nutritional supplements to 16,950 children aged 6-23 months (44 percent girls) in Boucle du Mouhoun and Centre-Nord regions.

Resilience: WFP's integrated resilience program continued to build the resilience of vulnerable communities in the Nord, Centre-Nord, Est, and Plateau-Central regions, supporting 81 resilience sites encompassing 278 villages. The program aims to strengthen communities’ capacity to withstand shocks and stressors such as those climate-related, while fostering social cohesion. In June, 13,080 people (60 percent women) participated in WFP's food assistance for assets activities to create and rehabilitate productive agricultural assets. As part of these activities, 404 hectares of degraded land were rehabilitated to enhance agricultural productivity, 31 hectares of lowlands were developed, 60 m3 of compost were produced to improve soil fertility, and two artificial water ponds (each with a capacity of 3,000 m3) were rehabilitated to retain rainwater for irrigation and vegetation growth.

WFP continues to invest in micro- and macroinsurance programmes to protect vulnerable people from climate shocks. These mechanisms respectively cover 36,770 and 118,000 people for the 2023/24 season.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

UNHAS helicopters transported 2,536 passengers and 99 mt of light cargo through 99 flights. The air service was provided to 94 user organisations (85 percent NGO; 15 percent UN) and reached 27 destinations across Burkina Faso.

Research, Assessment and Monitoring

A joint market monitor from WFP and Burkina Faso's National Food Security Stock Management Company (SONAGESS) recorded the largest five-year variations on markets in blockaded areas in the Sahel and Nord regions in June: +155 percent for millet and +212 percent for sorghum in Djibo; +223 percent for millet and 251 percent for sorghum in Sebba; +101 percent for millet in Titao. Although supply convoy prevents major shortages, vulnerable households’ access to foodstuffs remains a problem due to low purchasing power.

Challenges

The suspension of cash-based assistance in the Sahel and Centre-Nord regions persists and continues to be a significant hindrance to humanitarian efforts. WFP's June-August lean season response initially aimed to support more than 510,000 beneficiaries in these regions through cash-based transfers. Transitioning to in-kind food distributions poses considerable logistical difficulties due to the significant access constraints in the Sahel and Centre-Nord regions.

Dori – the capital of conflict-affected Sahel region, one of WFP’s four regional hubs – is also becoming increasingly isolated as the main roads leading to the town are being cut off by armed groups. Tin June, two trucks successfully arrived in Dori, while the remaining three are expected to leave from Niamey in early July. WFP is increasing its storage capacity in Dori, including through the deployment of two mobile storage units.

WFP’s six-month (July – December 2023) net funding requirements in Burkina Faso amount to USD 97 million.

Donors

Donors to WFP Burkina Faso in 2023 as of June 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 the United States of America. Additional support was provided by UN Central Emergency Response Fund, Global Partnerships for Education, the SDF fund, and private donors.