



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Burkina Faso Country Brief

July 2023



In Numbers

540,771 people assisted

55%



45%



USD 1 million cash-based transfers made

1,890 mt of food distributed

USD 94.7 million six-month (Aug 2023 - Jan 2024)
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, resulting in mass population displacement. As of March 2023, over 2 million people were officially displaced in the country.

Driven primarily by the ongoing conflict, food insecurity remains critical. According to the Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis from March 2023, an estimated 3.4 million people are facing acute food insecurity (CH Phases 3-5) during the June-August lean season in 2023 – a dramatic increase compared to the 687,000 acutely food-insecure people during the same period in 2019. Worryingly, 43,000 people are facing Catastrophic levels of food insecurity (CH Phase 5).

WFP operations in Burkina Faso include emergency food assistance, school meals, malnutrition treatment and prevention, asset creation and livelihoods support through food assistance for assets (FFA) and smallholder agriculture market support (SAMS) activities, safety nets including climate insurance, national capacity strengthening, and common logistics services including 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

Conflict remains the main driver of hunger and malnutrition in Burkina Faso. In July, the escalating violence, threats and direct attacks against civilians [continued](#) to trigger massive population movements towards urban and peri-urban areas, putting additional strain on host communities' limited resources. While humanitarian needs are rising, available funding falls short of the requirements. The Humanitarian Response Plan was [funded](#) at 23 percent, with the food security pillar largely underfunded at only 12 percent, as of 30 June.

Humanitarian access remains severely constrained due to the ongoing conflict, hampering the delivery of life-saving assistance to crisis-affected people, especially in areas besieged by armed groups. As of July, over 1 million people were trapped in 36 blockaded localities. In these areas, access to basic social services and essential supplies remains extremely limited, prompting the need for continued aerial deliveries to avert catastrophic levels of hunger.

Emergency assistance and lean season response: WFP's crisis response prioritized the most acutely food-insecure people, particularly internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities, and individuals affected by seasonal food insecurity. While WFP aimed to reach 1.3 million people with emergency assistance during the ongoing lean season, the growing number of blockaded areas, the worsening insecurity on roads, and insufficient funding (including for increased airlift capacity), compelled WFP to adjust its beneficiary prioritization strategy. The revised plan will prioritize assistance to 804,000 people in CH Phases 3-5. Alarming, thousands of individuals in CH Phase 4, located in blockaded localities, will be deprived of vital food assistance unless additional funds are secured for the airlift operation.

In July, WFP provided unconditional in-kind food or cash-based assistance to 405,970 acutely food-insecure people (over 30 percent of them IDPs) as part of its June-September lean season response. Airlifts remained crucial for the safe and timely delivery of life-saving food supplies, accounting for 35 percent of the total tonnage transported in July. WFP helicopters airlifted 663 mt of food and nutrition commodities to six localities in the Sahel and Est regions – half of which was delivered to Djibo (Sahel). The airlifted food served as a lifeline for 46,980 people, including 1,340 children aged 6-23 months and 1,930 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) for malnutrition prevention.

School meals: WFP's school meal programme continued to support vulnerable schoolchildren who attended remedial classes during the summer break. In total, WFP provided hot meals to about 13,800 schoolchildren (48 percent of them girls; 54 percent internally displaced) in 60 schools.

Photo credit: WFP/ Jecuthiel Yameogo

Caption: Distribution of unconditional food assistance as part of WFP's lean season response in Kaya, Centre-Nord region.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

| 2023 Total Requirements (in USD) | 2023 Available Contributions (in USD) | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 486 million | 279 million | 94.7 million |

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: The moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment programme reached 46,780 children aged 6-59 months (51 percent girls), and 19,380 PBWG. Due to insecurity, WFP's malnutrition prevention activity reached only 24 percent of its monthly beneficiary target, with 9,000 children aged 6-23 months (53 percent girls) and 6,550 PBWG receiving assistance. Nearly 8,300 children aged 6-59 months were screened for malnutrition; 134 MAM and 8 severe acute malnutrition cases were detected. Nutrition messaging from WFP reached 29,800 people (83 percent women) to raise awareness on diet diversity and proper young child and infant feeding practices.

Resilience: WFP's integrated resilience programme continued to build the resilience of vulnerable communities in the Nord, Centre-Nord, Sahel, Est, and Plateau-Central regions. In July, 54,816 people (52 percent women) received WFP's food assistance, following household participation to food assistance for assets activities to create and rehabilitate productive assets. As a result, 25 hectares of degraded land were rehabilitated, agricultural activities were launched on 1,860 hectares of rehabilitated land, 884 fuel-efficient stoves were built, and 320 m3 of compost were produced. Moreover, 55 beehives were distributed to boost honey production. WFP also assisted 1,680 vulnerable smallholder farmers (40 percent women) through capacity strengthening activities and facilitated their access to agricultural inputs.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

UNHAS helicopters transported 3,033 passengers and 87 mt of light cargo through 106 flights. The air service was provided to 100 user organisations (77 percent NGO; 22 percent UN; and 1 percent donor) and reached 30 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 a 35 percent increase in the prices of major cereals compared to the five-year average, including +30 percent for maize, +35 percent for millet, and +40 percent for sorghum. Insecurity and the blockade of localities continue to hinder the supply to the markets, especially in the Sahel region which experienced the highest five-year cereal price variation (+72 percent).

Challenges

The ongoing suspension of cash-based transfers (CBT) in the Sahel and Centre-Nord regions remains an obstacle to humanitarian operations. WFP is planning to provide in-kind food to the beneficiaries who were initially meant to receive CBT assistance during the lean season.

As key transportation routes are at risk of closure, WFP is facing increasing difficulties in securing sufficient food supplies for its life-saving interventions in the country, particularly in the Sahel region, whose regional seat Dori has become increasingly isolated. Advocacy efforts are being made to reopen the Niamey-Dori supply route which was disrupted after the political crisis and sanctions in Niger.

The challenging operating environment continues to pose a high risk of aid diversion and threats to the safety and security of WFP staff and partners. Notably, on 12 July, armed individuals ambushed a convoy of commercial trucks transporting WFP food in Sahel region, resulting in the diversion of over 130 mt of food and nutrition commodities.

WFP's six-month (August 2023 – January 2024) **net funding requirements in Burkina Faso amount to USD 94.7 million**. WFP's airlift operation is facing a critical funding situation, with available resources projected to last only until September 2023. To continue operations until the end of the year, USD 21.5 million are required.

Donors

Donors to WFP Burkina Faso in 2023 as of July include Austria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland,, 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.