



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES

WFP Burkina Faso Country Brief

October 2023



In Numbers

786,350 people assisted*

*Preliminary figures

55%



45%



USD 2.9 million cash-based transfers made

3,430 mt of food distributed

USD 130 million six-month (Nov 2023 - Apr 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, 3.4 million people faced acute food insecurity (CH Phases 3-5) during the June-August lean season – 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). The July rapid SMART survey shows that global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates exceed the critical threshold in 16 localities in the six conflict-affected regions analysed.

WFP operations 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.

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 October, food insecurity and malnutrition continued to be driven by the ongoing armed conflict, internal displacement, and the isolation of 36 localities by armed groups, mostly in the Sahel, Centre-Nord, and Est regions of Burkina Faso. People in these hardest-to-reach localities, estimated at over 1 million people, continue to need military-escorted supply convoys for essential supplies. However, such convoys are irregular and exposed to deadly attacks by armed groups. Rampant insecurity and constrained overland access to crisis-affected areas in various parts of the country continues to limit humanitarian actors' ability to provide much needed assistance at the appropriate scale.

Analysis by FEWS NET indicates that populations facing extreme hunger have been increasing in three provinces of the Sahel region (Soum, Oudalan, and Yagha) where various localities such as Djibo, Arbinda, Markoye, and Sebba have been isolated for over a year.

Although the humanitarian situation remains critical, funding does not keep pace with the needs. As of 31 October, the Humanitarian Response Plan was **underfunded** at 33 percent, while the food security pillar was funded at only 31 percent of its respective funding requirement.

Emergency assistance: WFP's crisis response prioritizes the most acutely food-insecure people, particularly internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities, and people facing acute food insecurity. In October, WFP's unconditional in-kind food or cash-based assistance reached 570,000 people, all of them internally displaced.

WFP continues to resort to costly aerial deliveries for the safe and rapid delivery of life-saving food and nutrition assistance to the hardest-to-reach localities. In October, WFP helicopters airlifted 1,079 mt of food and nutrition commodities to four localities, namely Titao (Nord), Djibo (Sahel), Bourzanga (Centre-Nord), and Kantchari (Est). The airlifted food served as a lifeline for 151,670 people, including 960 children aged 6-23 months and 7,240 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) to prevent malnutrition.

School meals: With the start of the 2023-2024 academic year, WFP's school meals programme continued to support schoolchildren, including those displaced by the conflict. In October, WFP provided 73,220 schoolchildren (51 percent girls) with nutritious hot meals in 293 schools. Nearly 1,470 girls received take-home rations. Targeting schools with high numbers of internally displaced schoolchildren, WFP provided daily hot meals to 57,640 schoolchildren (49 percent girls; 31 percent IDPs) in 119 schools. The nationwide suspension of cash assistance negatively affects the school meals programme, preventing WFP from providing cash-based take-home rations to 33,000 schoolchildren who had been targeted for the first quarter of the school year.

Photo credit: WFP/ Cheick Omar Bandaogo

Caption: A woman winnows rice that has just been threshed near Reka village (Nord region) as part of WFP's resilience building programme.

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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	276 million	130 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: To treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), WFP provided specialized nutritious foods to 47,430 children aged 6-59 months (52 percent girls), and 26,810 PBWG across 243 health centres. Moreover, WFP's malnutrition prevention activity reached 11,330 children aged 6-23 months (53 percent girls) and 11,750 PBWG. In total 11,690 children aged 6-59 months were screened for malnutrition; 243 MAM and 55 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases were detected. Nutrition messaging from WFP reached 26,050 people (67 percent women) to raise awareness on good nutrition and proper young child and infant feeding practices. As part of the CRIALCES project, 13 staff from the Burkinabé Agency for Standardization, Metrology and Quality were trained in the implementation of food safety management systems with a view to their future certification as ISO 22000 Lead Implementers.

Resilience: WFP continued its food assistance for assets (FFA) activities as part of the integrated resilience-building programme. In October, the activities focused on water resources management in Centre-Nord, Nord, Plateau-Central and Est regions, with 14,130 participants. These initiatives included installing solar pumping systems in ten school gardens, completing two boreholes with solar pumping systems for vegetable-growing areas, constructing four boreholes, and establishing eight basins. FFA activities in the Nord region involved creating 145 hectares of half-moons. Additionally, 27 hectares of lowland were developed.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

UNHAS helicopters conducted 77 flights, transporting 2,416 passengers and 123 mt of light cargo to 25 destinations across Burkina Faso. The service was provided to 102 user organisations (77 percent NGO; 22 percent UN, and 1 percent donor).

Research, Assessment and Monitoring

In their latest [Hunger Hotspots](#) report, WFP and FAO warned that Burkina Faso continues to be a "hunger hotspot of highest concern" for the November 2023 to April 2024 outlook. Acute food insecurity is likely to further increase in the country, driven primarily by escalating violence, leading to high numbers of civilian deaths, displacement, and disruption to trade and agricultural activities. The report highlights that Burkina Faso remains the epicenter of violence across the Central Sahel, with over 1,600 civilians killed in 2023, representing an increase of 17 percent compared to the same period last year, according to [ACLED](#).

Challenges

In October, the suspension of cash-based assistance was extended to the entire country, posing a serious impediment to humanitarian and development operations. WFP continues to engage with the national authorities to identify solutions with the aim of lifting the nationwide ban.

Amidst widespread insecurity and a shrinking humanitarian space, reaching crisis-affected people remains constrained, underscoring the urgent need to establish unimpeded access to all populations in need wherever they are located.

WFP's six-month (November 2023 – April 2024) **net funding requirements in Burkina Faso amount to USD 130 million.**

Donors

Donors to WFP Burkina Faso in 2023 as of July include Austria, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, , Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, , 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.