



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

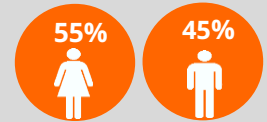
WFP Burkina Faso Country Brief

November 2023



In Numbers

522,870 people assisted*
*preliminary figures



USD 0 million cash-based transfers made

3,750 mt of food distributed

USD 131 million six-month (Dec 2023 - May 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 November 2023, nearly 3 million people will face acute food insecurity (CH Phases 3-5) during the next lean season between June and August 2024 – a dramatic increase compared to the 687,000 acutely food-insecure people during the same period in 2019. 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

Photo credit: WFP/ Emily Pinna

Caption: Two WFP beneficiaries receiving unconditional food assistance in Nord region.

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Operational Updates

In November, alarming levels of food insecurity and malnutrition persisted in Burkina Faso due to the ongoing armed conflict, internal displacement, and the isolation of 36 localities by armed groups, mostly in the Sahel, Centre-Nord, and Est regions. Civilians, including children and the elderly, continued to face armed attacks, leading to loss of lives. In a tragic incident on 5 November, at least 70 people were killed during an attack by members of an armed group on Zaongo village in Namentenga province (Centre-Nord region).

In its latest food security alert, FEWS NET [reiterated](#) previous warnings that the risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) persists in the town of Djibo (Sahel region), where 300,000 have been living under blockade for nearly two years.

On 30 November, an Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) delegation [concluded](#) a three-day official visit to Burkina Faso to enhance the effectiveness of the humanitarian response and promote sustainable solutions to the crisis. The delegation engaged with senior government officials, member states, donors, the humanitarian community, civil society organizations, and the affected communities.

Emergency assistance: WFP's crisis response prioritizes the most acutely food-insecure populations, particularly internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities, and people facing acute food insecurity. In November, WFP's unconditional in-kind food or cash-based assistance reached 223,110 people, including 207,240 IDPs and 15,870 refugees.

Faced with persistent overland access constraints, WFP helicopters remained essential for the safe and timely delivery of life-saving food and nutrition assistance to the hardest-to-reach localities. In November, WFP airlifted 379 mt of food and nutrition commodities to six localities, namely Bourzanga, Gomboro, Mansila, Titao, Toeni and Tougan. The airlifted food provided a lifeline to 31,360 people, including 1,810 children aged 6-23 months and 4,290 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) to prevent malnutrition.

School meals: WFP provided 84,000 schoolchildren (51 percent girls) with nutritious hot meals in 299 schools, and assisted 1,980 girls to receive take-home rations. Targeting schools with high numbers of internally displaced schoolchildren, WFP's emergency school feeding programme provided daily hot meals to 215,570 schoolchildren (48 percent girls; 55 percent IDPs) in 445 schools. On 25 November, WFP and government representatives participated in a ceremony in Koupéla to launch the Integrated Support Programme for School Feeding and Nutrition (PISANS) in the Centre-Est region. Already implemented in six other regions, this joint United Nations programme supports the Presidential Initiative which aims to ensure that school-age children receive at least one balanced meal a day.

WFP Country Strategy



Country Strategic Plan (2019-2025)

2023 Total Requirements (in USD)	2023 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
486 million	276 million	131 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 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: WFP's moderate acute malnutrition treatment programme (MAM) provided specialized nutritious foods to 54,330 children aged 6-59 months (49 percent girls), and 25,990 PBWG across 978 health centres. Moreover, WFP's malnutrition prevention activities reached 5,380 children aged 6-23 months (54 percent girls) and 7,880 PBWG. In total 12,690 children aged 6-59 months were screened for malnutrition; 446 MAM and 106 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases were detected. Nutrition messaging from WFP reached 38,780 people (63 percent women) to raise awareness on good nutrition and proper young child and infant feeding practices.

Resilience: WFP continued its integrated resilience-building programme in Centre-Nord, Sahel, Plateau-Central and Est regions. Food assistance for assets (FFA) activities reached 33,270 participants, 60 percent of them women. Overall, 2,000 hectares of degraded land were rehabilitated with multifunctional half-moons and stone bunds, over 4,400 mt of compost were produced, 120 units of 45 m3 stone check dams were built to control gully erosion, 890 50kg bags of herbaceous seeds were collected, and 57 km of rural tracks were built. Five choppers were provided to farmers organisations, enabling them to cut forage and biomass, and 40 livestock breeders received silage kits to preserve fodder.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

UNHAS helicopters conducted 87 flights, transporting 2,434 passengers and 84 mt of light cargo to 25 destinations across Burkina Faso. The service was provided to 106 user organisations (75 percent NGO; 24 percent UN, and 1 percent donor). Moreover, UNHAS carried out 35 security evacuations.

Research, Assessment and Monitoring

A joint [market monitor](#) from WFP and Burkina Faso's National Food Security Stock Management Company (SONAGESS), covering the month of October, showed that the average price of basic cereals, such as maize, millet, and sorghum, has increased by 36 percent compared to the five-year average. In the Sahel and Nord regions, the five-year price variations are +63 percent and +36 percent, respectively. Dependent on supply convoys, markets in conflict-affected regions were able to meet the demands of the population, but supplies remained limited.

Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) findings on WFP's lean season response indicate positive effects on the food security of beneficiaries. The proportion of households with acceptable food consumption increased from 15 to 27 percent, while the share of those with poor food consumption fell from 57 to 26 percent.

Challenges

The countrywide suspension of CBT assistance continued to pose an impediment to humanitarian and development operations. WFP suspended all its CBT assistance and shifted to in-kind food distribution. As the co-lead of the Cash Working Group, WFP continues to engage with national authorities, humanitarian actors, and donors to collectively address the nationwide suspension.

Underscoring the high-risk operating environment, WFP contracted trucks carrying food commodities encountered improvised explosive devices (IED) on two separate occasions – first in Centre-Nord and then in Est region. The detonations caused material damage, but the drivers were unharmed.

Donors

Donors to WFP Burkina Faso in 2023 include Austria, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Russian Federation, 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.