



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Burkina Faso Country Brief

January 2024



In Numbers

662,840 people assisted*

*preliminary figures

55%



45%



USD 0 million cash-based transfers made

3,150 mt of food distributed

USD 176 million six-month (February - July 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 conflict and displacement, food insecurity remains critical. According to the November 2023 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis, nearly 3 million people will face acute food insecurity (Phases 3-4) during the June – August lean season in 2024. This is a dramatic increase compared to the 687,000 acutely food-insecure people during the same period in 2019. The July 2023 rapid SMART survey showed 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 January, alarming levels of food insecurity and malnutrition persisted in Burkina Faso, mostly driven by the ongoing armed conflict, and the internal displacement of populations.

Notably, according to the IPC Acute Malnutrition (AMN) [analysis](#), nearly 480,000 children aged 6-59 months and 131,500 pregnant and breastfeeding women are facing or expected to face elevated levels of acute malnutrition between August 2023 and July 2024 in the 37 provinces analysed. The main contributing factors identified were low food consumption, poor dietary and care practices, high prevalence of childhood morbidities, poor hygiene and sanitation conditions and the low coverage of access to safe drinking water. Additionally, massive population displacement in 8 of the 13 regions, the closure or minimal functioning of hundreds of health structures, and limited humanitarian access further aggravated the situation. Nevertheless, comprehensive nationwide data on the nutritional situation remains limited due to lack of physical access to insecure areas. Notably, eight provinces were not analysed by the IPC AMN due to lack of adequate data, namely three provinces in the Sahel region, two in the Est, two in the Boucle du Mouhoun, and one in the Nord.

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 January, WFP's unconditional in-kind food assistance reached 205,000 people, all of them IDPs.

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 January, WFP helicopters airlifted 678 mt of food and nutrition commodities to six localities, namely Pama, Djibo, Pensa, Mansila, Kelbo, Bourzanga. The airlifted food provided a lifeline to 73,710 people, including 4,750 children aged 6-23 months and 4,610 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) to prevent malnutrition.

School meals: WFP provided nutritious hot meals to 93,170 schoolchildren (51 percent girls) in 347 schools, and take-home rations to 14,480 students (82 percent girls). Targeting schools with high numbers of internally displaced schoolchildren, WFP's emergency school meals programme provided daily hot meals to 270,290 schoolchildren (52 percent girls; 51 percent IDPs) in 709 schools. In support of the Presidential Initiative to provide all school-aged children with at least one balanced meal per day, WFP provided technical assistance to update the related action plan for 2024 and 2025, and participated in a workshop to validate the national guide for home-grown school feeding.

Photo credit: WFP/ Emily Pinna

Caption: Children planting nurseries in their school garden in the village of Sera (Centre-Nord region).

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2025)

2024 Total Requirements (in USD)	2024 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
501 million	155 million	176 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 49,920 children aged 6-59 months (52 percent girls), and 27,620 PBWG across 978 health centres. Moreover, WFP’s malnutrition prevention activities reached 8,980 children aged 6-23 months (56 percent girls) and 5,750 PBWG. In total 9,216 children aged 6-59 months were screened for malnutrition; 314 MAM and 19 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases were detected. Nutrition messaging from WFP reached 16,935 people (61 percent women) to raise awareness on good nutrition and proper young child and infant feeding practices. Moreover, WFP provided technical and logistical support to rapid SMART surveys conducted in 12 hard-to-reach areas.

Resilience: WFP continued its integrated resilience-building programme in Nord, Centre-Nord, Sahel, Plateau-Central and Est regions. Food assistance for assets (FFA) activities reached 20,630 participants, 60 percent of them women. Overall, 310 hectares of degraded land were rehabilitated, 11,730 mt of compost were produced, 577 units of 45 m3 stone check dams were built to control gully erosion, and 5,240 young fish were provided to three schools with fish ponds.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

UNHAS helicopters conducted 86 flights, transporting 1,986 passengers and 123 mt of light cargo to 26 destinations across Burkina Faso. The service was provided to 91 user organisations (84 percent NGO; and 16 percent UN).

Research, Assessment and Monitoring

A joint [market monitor](#) by WFP and Burkina Faso’s National Food Security Stock Management Company (SONAGESS) for the month of January revealed that five-year variations in the prices of basic cereals remained high, particularly for maize (+22 percent), millet (+32 percent), and sorghum (+37 percent). The regions experiencing the highest variations were the Sahel, Boucle du Mouhoun, Est, Nord, and Centre-Nord, with an average of +34 percent. In areas facing security challenges, several secondary and border markets remained closed or difficult to access, relying on supply convoys.

Challenges

The countrywide suspension of cash-based assistance continued to pose an impediment to humanitarian and development operations. WFP suspended all its cash-based transfers (CBT) 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, on 1 January, a military-escorted supply convoy, consisting of hundreds of commercial and humanitarian trucks, was attacked at the village of Sakoani in Est region. Among the 24 trucks carrying WFP food commodities, one was set on fire, resulting in a loss of food.

Donors

Donors to WFP Burkina Faso in 2024 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.