



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Burkina Faso Country Brief

March 2024



In Numbers

859,915 people assisted*

*preliminary figures

54%



46%



4,410 mt of food distributed

US\$ 173 million six-month net funding requirement
(April–September 2024)

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-related shocks. Security continues to deteriorate, causing mass population movements – 2 million people were displaced as of March 2023.

Food insecurity remains critical, with conflict and displacement the primary drivers. The March 2024 *Cadre Harmonisé* (CH) analysis indicates that over 2.7 million people will face acute food insecurity (CH phases 3–4) during the lean season between June and August. This would be a dramatic increase from the 687,000 figure during the same period in 2019. The July 2023 rapid SMART survey showed that global acute malnutrition rates exceeded 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, safety nets, climate insurance, national capacity strengthening, asset creation and livelihoods support through food assistance for assets (FFA) and smallholder agriculture market support (SAMS) activities. Common logistics services were provided by the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS).

WFP has been present in Burkina Faso since 1967.



Population: 22.5 million

2022 Human Development Index:
Ranked 185th out of 193 countries

Income Level: Low

Chronic malnutrition: 21.6 percent of
children aged 6 to 59 months

Operational Updates

- In March, the security situation in Burkina Faso, particularly in the northern and eastern regions, remained concerning, leading to disruptions in livelihoods, commercial flows, markets, and households' access to essential supplies.
- In addition to deadly attacks on civilians, the encirclement of localities by armed groups persisted, restricting the freedom of movement for over 1 million people and hindering their access to food and basic social services. **In encircled areas, people rely heavily on food assistance** delivered through supply convoys organised by the authorities or airlifted by WFP helicopters to meet their basic food needs. However, the quantities of food supplied through these means are insufficient to meet the needs of the entire food-insecure population. With the upcoming rainy season, it is crucial to not only maintain but also increase deliveries to meet the rising food needs.
- WFP helicopters remained essential for the safe and timely delivery of life-saving food and nutrition assistance to the hardest-to-reach areas. **WFP airlifted 612 mt of food and nutrition commodities to seven localities** (Djibo, Sebba, Kelbo, Mansila, Tanwalbougou, Gayéri, Titato). This assistance provided a lifeline to 40,820 people, including 375 children aged 6-23 months and 2,450 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G) to prevent malnutrition.
- WFP's crisis response prioritised the most acutely food-insecure populations, particularly internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities. Reaching 75 percent of the monthly beneficiary target, WFP provided unconditional **in-kind emergency food assistance** to 392,980 food-insecure people.
- WFP's **school-based programmes provided nutritious hot meals** to 98,770 schoolchildren (51 percent girls) in 364 schools, and take-home rations to 15,000 students (81 percent girls). Additionally, WFP's emergency school-based programme assisted 685 schools with high numbers of internally displaced schoolchildren, providing daily hot meals to 281,820 schoolchildren (51 percent girls; 58 percent IDPs). However, WFP could not provide take-home rations to students in emergency canteens due to insufficient funds received for this type of assistance.
- In addition, WFP completed the construction of three school canteen kitchens in Dori (Sahel region), and organized **training sessions** to strengthen the capacities of 140 actors in the education sector, including 72 school cooks.

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Photo Caption: Children receiving their lunch at a WFP-supported primary school in the commune of Korsimoro (Centre-Nord region).
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Country Strategic Plan (2019–2025)

2024 Total Requirements (US\$)	2024 Available Contributions (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$)
501 million	165 million	173 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.

• WFP’s **moderate acute malnutrition treatment programme** provided specialized nutritious foods to 32,780 children aged 6-59 months (51 percent girls), and 26,650 PBW/G across 978 health centres. **Malnutrition prevention activities** reached 48,020 children aged 6-23 months (52 percent girls) and 4,120 PBW/G. In total 48,557 children aged 6-59 months were screened for malnutrition; with 254 moderate acute malnutrition and 42 severe acute malnutrition cases detected

• **Nutrition messaging** from WFP reached 54,620 people (76 percent women) to raise awareness on good nutrition and optimal young child and infant feeding practices.

• WFP continued its **integrated resilience-building programme** in the Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, Plateau-Central and Sahel regions. In March 2024, more than 46 mt of food were distributed to nearly 5,220 households, totalling 36,510 beneficiaries, of whom 60 percent were women. Moreover, around 600 goats and 20,000 kg of animal feed were distributed to 200 people, and 100 livestock farmers received training in sheep fattening.

• Furthermore, WFP, UNICEF and Germany’s main development agency GIZ gave a joint presentation to government technical services to outline their plans for implementing integrated resilience-building projects in Est and Centre-Est regions.

Research, Assessment and Monitoring

• The March 2024 **Cadre Harmonisé (CH)** food security [analysis](#) shows that over 2.7 million (or 12 percent of the population) will face crisis or emergency levels of acute food insecurity (CH phases 3-4) during the upcoming lean season between June and August 2024. This projection includes 423,000 people facing an emergency level (CH phase 4), 60 percent of whom are located in the crisis-affected Sahel and Nord regions.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

• UNHAS continued to offer safe and reliable air transport for the humanitarian community to access people in need. In March, UNHAS conducted 58 flights, which transported 1,594 passengers and 36 mt of light cargo to 26 destinations in Burkina Faso. UNHAS services were provided to 91 user organisations, of which 83 percent were non-governmental organisations (NGOs); 15 percent were United Nations agencies and 2 percent were for donor-related travel.

Challenges

• Since the end of 2023, WFP has suspended all cash-based transfers (CBTs) and pivoted to in-kind food distributions, with related lead times for food sourcing and increased delivery costs.

Donors

Donors to WFP’s Burkina Faso Country Strategic Plan (CSP) in 2024 include Austria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America. Additional support was provided by United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and additional private donors.