



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Burkina Faso Country Brief July 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. Insecurity has caused mass population displacement, with 2 million people displaced as per the latest official data from 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 face acute food insecurity (CH Phases 3–4) during the lean season between June and August. This indicates a dramatic increase from the 687,000 figure during the same period in 2019.

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 services are provided to the humanitarian community, including passenger and cargo transport by the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS).

WFP has been present in Burkina Faso since 1967.



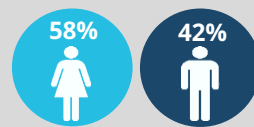
Population: **22.5 million**

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**

In Numbers



320,730 people assisted*
*Preliminary figures

2,290 mt of food distributed

US\$ 148 million six-month net funding requirement
(August 2024–January 2025)

Operational Updates

- Findings from a recently published Rapid SMART nutrition survey in 12 hard-to-reach communes across four conflict-affected regions revealed a **worrying malnutrition situation among children** aged 6-59 months. Three communes (Diapaga, Titao, and Mansila) showed global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates between 10 and 14 percent, indicating a "serious" situation according to WHO classification. When considering combined global acute malnutrition (cGAM), nine communes recorded "serious" malnutrition rates. These communes were Tougan, Diapaga, Pama, Kompienga, Titao, Gorom-Gorom, Markoye, Mansila, and Sebba.
- In hard-to-reach areas inaccessible by land, **WFP delivered assistance via heavy-lift helicopters**, airlifting 686 mt of life-saving food and nutrition commodities to 10 localities across the Sahel, Centre-Nord, Est, and Boucle du Mouhoun regions. This assistance provided a lifeline to 29,510 people, including 6,270 children aged 6-23 months and 1,370 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G).
- WFP's crisis response prioritized the most acutely food-insecure populations, providing **unconditional in-kind emergency food assistance** to cover beneficiaries' basic food needs. However, operational challenges continued to hamper WFP's **lean season response**, which aims to address acute food and nutrition needs between June and August. Due to extreme access constraints, WFP could only reach 207,560 food-insecure people during the month, including 16,420 refugees. Alongside general food distributions, WFP also provided specialized nutritious foods to **prevent malnutrition**, reaching 8,710 children aged 6-23 months (53 percent girls) and 6,580 PBW/G.
- Nutrition messaging** from WFP reached 39,660 people (77 percent women) to raise awareness on good nutrition, hygiene, and optimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices.
- Through its **moderate acute malnutrition treatment** programme, WFP provided specialized nutritious foods to 78,460 children aged 6-59 months (50 percent girls), and 34,690 PBW/G. Moreover, 21,460 children aged 6-59 months were screened for malnutrition; detecting 944 cases of moderate and 253 cases of severe acute malnutrition.
- WFP provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene's Directorate of Nutrition for the validation of the newly developed **national guidelines for malnutrition prevention**.

Contact info: [Liam Wylie \(liam.wylie@wfp.org\)](mailto:Liam.Wylie@wfp.org)
Country Director: [Sory Ouane \(sory.ouane@wfp.org\)](mailto:Sory.Ouane@wfp.org)
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/burkina-faso

Photo Caption: Bags of food commodities are being unloaded from a WFP-contracted helicopter in Diapaga (Est region).
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Country Strategic Plan (2019–2025)

2024 Total Requirements (US\$)	2024 Available Contributions (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$)
401 million	246 million	148 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 PBW/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 (PBW/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.

- In July, the provision of school meals was on hold due to the ongoing summer break. However, WFP is preparing to provide **school meals** to pupils participating in catch-up courses during August and September.

- With technical and financial support from WFP, the Ministry of Education organized a **workshop to review the National School Feeding and Nutrition Strategy** (SNANS, in French).

- **WFP continued its resilience-building programme** in the Centre-Nord, Nord, Sahel, Est, Plateau-Central, and Centre-Est regions. Through food assistance for assets (FFA) activities, 133 hectares of degraded land were restored using half-moons and stone bunds, 29 vegetable gardens were established, and five water reservoirs were built for irrigation purposes. In addition, over 15,520 smallholder farmers (47 percent of them women) and 35 producer organizations received agricultural equipment and inputs, such as forage seeds and organic fertilizer, along with training in hydroponic fodder production and milk hygiene.

Research, Assessment and Monitoring

- A joint **market monitoring** exercise by WFP and Burkina Faso's National Food Security Stock Management Company (SONAGESS, in French) for June showed that staple food prices remained higher than the five-year average. This was the case for maize (+26 percent), millet (+30 percent), sorghum (+39 percent), and cowpeas (+40 percent). In hard-to-reach areas, several markets remained dysfunctional, with some remaining closed for months, while others rely on irregular government-organized supply convoys. The irregularity of convoys and lack of stockpiles result in food shortages in places like Diapaga (Est region), where basic cereals are scarce. Additionally, high prices make access to food difficult, especially for the most vulnerable households.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS offered safe and reliable air transport for the humanitarian community to access people in remote and hard-to-reach locations. In July, UNHAS conducted 95 flights, which transported 2,087 passengers and 62 mt of light cargo to 26 destinations in Burkina Faso. UNHAS services were provided to 92 user organisations, of which 87 percent were NGOs; 12 percent were UN agencies, and 1 percent was donor-related travel. UNHAS also conducted three medical evacuations.

Challenges

- WFP staff, contractors, and cooperating partners continue to be affected by the insecure operational environment. In early July, UNHAS and WFP cargo flights to Djibo and Gorum-Gorum had to be cancelled due to heightened security risks.
- WFP's lean season response is severely hampered by extreme access constraints, particularly in areas with populations facing emergency levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 4), leading to limited assistance coverage thus far.

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.