



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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WFP Burkina Faso Country Brief

March 2025



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 indicated that over 2.7 million people faced acute food insecurity (CH Phases 3–4) during the lean season between June and August 2024. 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.



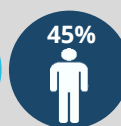
Population: 22.5 million

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



535,560 people assisted*

*Preliminary figures

4,674 mt of food distributed

US\$ 144 million six-month net funding requirement
(April–September 2025)

Operational Updates

- As part of crisis response, WFP provided **unconditional in-kind food assistance** to 240,650 acutely food-insecure people, including 16,680 refugees. Beneficiaries in Emergency (CH Phase 4) received full rations, while those in Crisis (CH Phase 3) received only half rations due to resource constraints.
- Access constraints continued to hinder the delivery of assistance to hard-to-reach areas.** In response, WFP airlifted 719 metric tons (mt) of emergency food and nutrition assistance using heavy-lift helicopters to eight localities, providing a lifeline for 64,620 acutely food-insecure people. This included 3,080 children aged 6–23 months and 1,575 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G), who received specialized nutritious foods to prevent malnutrition. Previously accessible only via airlifts due to an ongoing blockade, Titao was successfully reached by land for the second time, resulting in additional cost savings. As a last resort, WFP also joined government-organized supply convoys to Tougouri, Yalgo, Dori, and Gayeri, enabling the delivery of 480 mt of food and nutrition commodities.
- WFP distributed specialized nutritious foods to **prevent malnutrition**, reaching 7,660 children aged 6–23 months (51 percent girls) and 5,315 PBW/G.
- Nutrition messaging** from WFP reached 28,100 people (68 percent women), raising awareness on good nutrition, hygiene, and optimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices. WFP's social and behaviour change communication sessions reached 2,480 participants through 13 newly established **mother support groups** in the Ouahigouya health district, contributing to malnutrition prevention.
- To **manage moderate acute malnutrition**, WFP provided specialized nutritious foods to 37,775 children aged 6–59 months (50 percent girls), and 21,535 PBW/G. In addition, 7,890 children aged 6–59 months were screened for malnutrition, resulting in the detection of 153 cases of moderate and 11 cases of severe acute malnutrition.

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Photo Caption: Students from a WFP-supported primary school in Dori, Sahel region, help harvest fresh vegetables from their school garden.
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Country Strategic Plan (2019–2025)

2025 Total Requirements (US\$)	2025 Available Contributions (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$)
403 million	178 million	144 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.

• The **integrated school feeding programme** provided nutritious hot meals to 69,530 schoolchildren (50 percent girls) in 574 schools, and take-home rations to 6,480 schoolchildren. Targeting schools with high numbers of internally displaced children, **the emergency school meals programme** reached 55,580 pupils (50 percent girls and 51 percent IDPs) in 141 schools. Due to limited resources, WFP prioritized the provision of hot lunches, resulting in the suspension of breakfasts and the cancellation of take-home rations. Funding shortfalls also prevented assistance to more than 300 schools initially targeted. **Training sessions** reached 320 teachers and 324 canteen cooks across three regions, covering topics such as food management, monitoring and reporting, hygiene practices, and cooking techniques.

• As part of the **resilience-building programme**, 988 hectares of degraded land were rehabilitated, 14,910 m³ of organic compost were produced, eight water reservoirs were constructed, 4,178 fuel-efficient stoves were manufactured, two 0.5-hectare nutrition gardens were established, and 23,117 seedlings were cultivated for reforestation purposes. Over 975 mt of food were distributed to 21,264 households, benefiting 148,850 individuals. As part of **support for smallholder famers**, 80 people received assistance to start small livestock activities, including raising pigs, chickens, and producing livestock feed using hydroponic methods. In addition, dedicated spaces were created to serve as venues for meetings and training sessions for a group of 75 women who formed a cooperative.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service

• **UNHAS offered safe and reliable air transport** for the humanitarian community to access people in remote and hard-to-reach locations. UNHAS conducted 54 flights, which transported 1,319 passengers and 62 mt of light cargo to 27 destinations in Burkina Faso.

Research, Assessment and Monitoring

• While the March 2025 round of the [Cadre Harmonisé](#) analysis did not take place in Burkina Faso, the National Food Security and Nutrition Survey (ENISAN) was launched to provide updated data, including from hard-to-reach areas. The survey results will inform an upcoming analysis workshop, which will generate a geographic classification of food insecurity and estimate the number of people affected. These findings will contribute to the development of the Government's national response plan and support more informed decision-making within the humanitarian community for interventions.

Challenges

• **Access constraints and insecurity continue to pose major challenges.** On 19 March, following fighting near Kantchari in the Est region, WFP temporarily suspended flights to the area as a precautionary measure.

Donors

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