



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Burkina Faso Country Brief September 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. Findings from the Government-led national food security and nutrition analysis conducted in April 2025 showed that 2.3 million people would face acute food insecurity during the lean season from June to August 2025. This marks a dramatic increase from the 687,000 people affected 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**

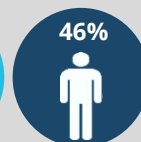
2022 Human Development Index:
Ranked 185th out of 193 countries

Income Level: **Low**

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

In Numbers

265,472 people assisted*



3,331 mt of food distributed

US\$ 61 million six-month net funding requirement
(October 2025–March 2026)

**Preliminary figures*

Operational Updates

- **In September, WFP delivered over 3,100 metric tons of life-saving food and essential nutritional support to 219,765 people**, including 16,815 refugees in the Sahel region. Distributions reached several localities, including Titao, Djibasso, Zogoré, Tangaye. Airlift operations resumed on 24 September, enabling the delivery of 108 metric tons of food to vulnerable populations in Arbinda, Kelbo, and Solhan, three hard-to-reach areas severely affected by insecurity.
- **Between July and September 2025, WFP assisted 221,015 people during the lean season**, including 8,811 children and pregnant/lactating women with nutritional supplements. A total of 6,860 mt of food was delivered across 14 localities, 11 of them hard-to-reach. This was achieved despite major challenges such as the suspension of airlift operations after the Sollé incident, and severe access constraints due to insecurity and poor road conditions.
- **To prevent malnutrition, WFP provided specialized nutritious foods to 4,551 children aged 6–23 months (54 percent girls) and 2,473 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G)**. In parallel, nutrition awareness campaigns reached 9,819 individuals (64 percent women) promoting good nutrition, hygiene, and optimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices. Additionally, 3,656 children aged 6–59 months were screened for malnutrition, resulting in the identification of 106 cases of moderate acute malnutrition and 31 cases of severe acute malnutrition. These prevention activities were carried out in the regions of Nakambé, Goulmou, Kuilsé, Liptako, Soum, and Yaadga.
- **To manage moderate acute malnutrition**, WFP distributed specialized nutritious foods to 36,295 children aged 6–59 months (50.3 percent girls) and 233 PBW/G. These interventions aim to strengthen the nutritional resilience of the most vulnerable populations, particularly in areas facing high levels of food insecurity.
- **Strategic development plans, marketing plans, and business plans have been validated for five semi-industrial units which produce fortified infant flours**, strengthening their operational sustainability and enhancing their contribution to the fight against malnutrition through locally produced, high-quality nutritional products.

Photo credit: Jecuthiel YAMEOGO

Arbinda, Soum Region / Burkina Faso

Food delivery by helicopter in Arbinda as part of the 2025 lean season response.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019–2025)

2025 Total Requirements (US\$)	2025 Available Contributions (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$)
270.5 million	249.4 million	61 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 from 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.

• **As part of its school feeding programmes, WFP, in partnership with UNICEF, provided hot meals to 9,130 schoolchildren** (54 percent girls) including 4,256 displaced children, across four regions. Activities continued in 20 school gardens located in Guiriko, Bankui, Yaadga, and Gourma, while infrastructure works progressed with the construction of eight kitchens, three dining halls, and four warehouses. Moreover, delivery plans for the 2025/2026 school year were finalized to reach 247,000 students across 820 schools in 9 regions through the integrated and emergency school feeding programmes. As part of global advocacy efforts, a high-level delegation from Burkina Faso, including representatives from WFP and the Ministry of Education, attended the Second Global Summit of the School Meals Coalition held in Fortaleza, Brazil, from 18 to 19 September 2025.

• **Resilience-building activities in September focused on land rehabilitation and hydro-agricultural development.** Under the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programme, WFP supported the vegetation of 29 hectares of stone bunds, produced 375 compost heaps (9 m³ each), and established 291 “lucky gardens”, while monitoring the use of previously created assets. Hydro-agricultural efforts included supervision of farms and market gardening perimeters across multiple sites in Gulmu, Foutrigui, Goaragui, Nessesmentenga, Sidogo, Wara, and Kaya. Progress rates ranged from 15–40 percent for farms and 30–50 percent for market gardening perimeters, with additional works monitored in Arbollé and Bokin.

• **Efforts to strengthen livelihoods continued through follow-up on the resilience package** in Kuilsé and Oubri, where crops were in good condition and beneficiaries were preparing for harvest, with yield surveys underway. WFP also inspected 100 metal silos in Ouahigouya, with 96 deemed acceptable for safe storage. Capacity-building initiatives included training 60 participants (including 12 women) on nursery plant production techniques in Gulmu (ex. Est region) and conducting 20 awareness sessions for 717 people, mostly women and girls, on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and environmental hygiene.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service

• **UNHAS continued to provide safe and reliable air transport** for humanitarian actors to reach remote and hard-to-access areas across Burkina Faso. During this period, 318 flights were operated, a 10 percent increase compared to August. These flights transported 1,682 passengers and 49 mt of light cargo to 29 destinations nationwide. Meanwhile, 47 flights were cancelled, mainly due to operational and security constraints, underscoring the persistent challenges in maintaining consistent access.

Challenges

• WFP’s lean season response in 2025 achieved critical results despite severe constraints. Coverage fell from 60 localities in 2024 to 14 in 2025 due to funding gaps and a reduced air fleet of only one helicopter. Operational timelines were affected by the timing of food security analysis and evolving data collection modalities. Insecurity and poor road conditions limited convoys along the Kaya-Dori corridor and prevented assistance in areas like Sollé and Foutouri. Airlift operations, which were suspended after the Sollé incident on 12 August, resumed on 24 September with deliveries to Arbinda and Kelbo resuming. The episode reflected the persistent access and logistical constraints shaping this year’s response.

Donors

Donors to WFP’s Burkina Faso Country Strategic Plan (CSP) include Austria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, 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.