



WFP Burkina Faso

Emergency Response

Situation Report #11

23 April 2020

Situation Update

- Burkina Faso is facing an unprecedented food and nutritional security crisis. While COVID-19 adds another layer of vulnerability, people are in need of continued humanitarian – particularly food – assistance to reduce the risks of medium to long-term serious impacts on their lives. WFP Burkina Faso has chosen to adapt its country strategic plan (CSP) to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and prioritize the continuity and uninterrupted provision of food assistance to the WFP beneficiaries mainly consisting of IDPs, refugees and the poorest of the host population who are already facing shock from the civil conflicts and are particularly vulnerable to the pandemic. These beneficiaries are vulnerable to additional shocks and largely dependent on WFP's food assistance to maintain a balanced diet that is required to boost the immune system.
- This situation is exacerbated by a security situation that is volatile. In April, a truckload of WFP commodities was hijacked by armed groups in the Est. Furthermore, access in the Sahel is becoming more restricted due to the intensification of security incidents. This includes Djibo where an embargo was limiting access to food and medical commodities. WFP has been working with the Government and the Humanitarian community to ensure that access to key vital commodities was ensured in the town. Dispatch of food to the area has resumed.
- As of 23 April 2020, 616 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in Burkina Faso, with 41 deaths. Government has launched a response with the objective to contain the spread of the COVID-19, through isolation of suspected cases and treatment of confirmed cases. Government has declared a state of emergency, closed its borders, imposed curfew (9PM to 4AM), introduced social distancing, banned grouping exceeding 50 people, suspended biometric registration, closed schools until end of April, and introduced a two-week closure of towns where COVID-19 cases have been reported.

WFP Response

Food and Nutrition Assistance



- In March, WFP assisted 492,955 IDPs (470,541) and members of host-families (22,414) via cash-based transfers (CBT) or in-kind distributions in the regions of Boucle du Mouhoun, Sahel, Centre-Nord and Nord. This included 72,791 IDPs in the Centre-Nord region who received a cash-entitlement for a total of XOF 582,328,000 transferred via mobile-money service. A total of 6,443.96 mt of food was distributed as part of food rations.
- Distributions in the Est region were not carried out in March as the Governor put in place restrictions affecting also humanitarian distributions. Nonetheless, following consultations with Government authorities, distributions resumed in April.

Personal protective equipment received by Burkina Faso with WFP support. ©WFP/Esther Ouoba

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Further information: <https://www1.wfp.org/countries/burkina-faso>



In Numbers

2.2 million people affected
(OCHA Humanitarian Response Plan – February 2020)

1.6 million people in need of food assistance
(Cadre Harmonisé – March 2020)

2.15 million people projected to be in need during the 2020 lean season (June- August)
(Cadre Harmonisé – March 2020)

848,329 internally displaced persons
(CONASUR – 22 April 2020)

Highlights

- In March, WFP assisted 520,028 IDPs and members of host-families with general distributions of food or cash-based transfers and emergency school feeding activities.
- Throughout the lean season (June-August 2020), WFP plans to assist 1.125 million people including IDPs, host-families and food insecure vulnerable people.
- WFP requires initially over USD 3.5 million for the implementation of its COVID-19 response.
- USD 65.5 million needed to support operations from May to October 2020. With current funding outlook, the lean season needs will be partially covered. WFP stresses the criticality of confirming contributions as soon as possible to ensure adequate procurement and pre-positioning considering current operational scenario.
- In March, WFP assisted over 13,800 children aged 6-23 months and over 7,700 pregnant and lactating women with prevention for acute malnutrition interventions.
- As part of its emergency school feeding activities, in March, WFP assisted 27,073 IDP and host-family children in the Nord, Est and Sahel regions. This included 2,806 girls who received take-home rations. This assistance took place before the closure of schools due to COVID-19.
- WFP is finalizing the selection of partners to start the targeting for the assistance during the lean season (June-August 2020). During the lean season, WFP will ensure assistance in provinces facing crisis food insecurity (IPC phase 3) and will assist 625,000 vulnerable food insecure people. During those three months, WFP plans to assist 1.15 million vulnerable people, including IDPs, thus covering 50 percent of the number of people projected to be in need of food assistance during the lean season.

Supply Chain



- On 2 April, the first supply chain and logistics working group meeting took place with the participation of approximately 30 participants. Participants outlined their major operational constraints namely around humanitarian access and warehousing capacity

Assessments

- WFP responded to COVID-19 by scaling-up mechanisms and studies to support the global humanitarian response. WFP conducted a study on the impact on COVID-19 on the food security situation and released the first bulletin on market prices on the food security situation as well as market prices. Results outline the first effects on markets and de-facto on the food security situation of populations. There is a lower supply in the markets with increase in transport costs being recorded. Most commodity prices are stable – except for black-eyed peas that have increased 12% in markets in the Sahel region. However, an increase in the prices of food commodities can be expected in the coming weeks. Households are becoming more vulnerable with restrictions to sell /buy commodities thus making them prone to be food insecure.
- WFP contracted a “call centre” to support the implementation of mobile vulnerability analysis and mappings (mVAMs) and mobile post distribution monitoring (mPDMs) as well as collecting up-to-date information on food security indicators, prices and beneficiary information. This will enhance the evidence-base and allow to mitigate the risks of limited access in view of the current situation.

COVID-19

- For the COVID-19 response, **WFP will initially require over USD 3.5 million** to cover the additional costs caused by the impact of COVID-19, as well as to provide UN Common Services / Logistics support, including United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS). This does not include any assistance to COVID-19 affected populations to be carried out in the coming months.
- On 16 April, WFP supported the offloading of a donation of protective personal equipment from the People’s Republic of China to the Government of Burkina Faso. The flight was organized by the WFP’s U.N. Humanitarian Response Depot in Accra (Ghana) on behalf of the Government of China. Similar services may be provided upon request of specific actors.

Security incident in the Est region

- On 18 April, a WFP transporter truck was seized and subsequently released by unidentified armed individuals travelling from Fada N’Gourma (regional capital of the Est region) to Pama and Komienga, where WFP was planning to undertake food and nutritional assistance to IDPs and vulnerable host-communities.
- NSAGs looted the WFP truck containing 53.71 mt food and nutritional commodities with a total value of USD 13,466. No casualties were reported. Investigations are ongoing with the partner and local authorities on the incident. WFP continues to implement its humanitarian access strategy to mitigate the risk of similar incidents and will continue to do so to avoid the reoccurrence of similar incidents.

Response Strategy

- On 13 May 2019, WFP’s emergency response in Burkina Faso was categorised as a Level 2 Emergency response. On 9 September 2019, WFP scaled up its response in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger by introducing a Level 3 Emergency initially until March 2020 and extended till 31 December 2020. Scale-up was necessary to ensure that urgent needs are met.
- WFP plans to assist the majority of the IDPs, whereas the remaining would be taken care of by other actors, including the Government. This will be complemented by general food assistance to communities hosting IDPs (one in-kind distribution every three months); prevention of malnutrition support to children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women among IDPs; and emergency school feeding (including take-home rations for IDPs and host-community girls), where security conditions allow.

Humanitarian Coordination

Food Security Cluster

- In March, the food security cluster (FSC) partners have assisted a total of 518,715 IDPs out of some 779,000 IDPs originally registered at the beginning of February 2020. 81 percent of the assistance was provided via in-kind food rations, and the remaining via cash-based transfers. WFP represented 91 percent of the assistance. All members of the FSC have put in place necessary adaptation measures to reduce the propagation of COVID-19.
- FSC is working on the revision of the Burkina Faso Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the new COVID-19 Global HRP. Furthermore, as a cluster exercise, partners are assessing the impact of COVID-19 on their operations.

Funding outlook

- Approximately **USD 65.5 million** are needed from May till October 2020. This excludes any additional needs linked to COVID-19 response. **With current resources, WFP will be able to cover partially the needs during the lean season. Urgent funding confirmation is needed to allow WFP to pre-position critical stocks for two-three months in view of possible delays in the supply chain.** Without adequate assistance, there is a risk for the food and nutritional situation to further deteriorate, as well as for an aggravation of existing tensions among ethnic and vulnerable groups.
- The 4th CSP [Budget revision](#) adjusted WFP operational requirements to a scenario pre-COVID-19. Overall CSP requirements augmented of over USD 59 million.

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