



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP Burkina Faso Country Brief

February 2023



## In Numbers

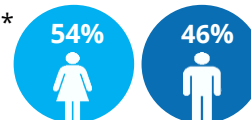
**1,820 mt** of food distributed

**USD 12.8 million** cash-based transfers made

**USD 122 million** six-month (March-August 2023) net funding requirements

**1.1 million people assisted\*** in February 2023

\*Preliminary figures



## Operational Updates

In February, the protracted displacement crisis and the isolation of localities by non-state armed groups continued to drive food insecurity and malnutrition in Burkina Faso. Worryingly, in the town of Djibo, about 360,000 people remained trapped under a blockade which started a year ago, resulting in a dire humanitarian situation, including famine-like conditions. In the northern and eastern regions of the country, armed groups continued to target civilians with deadly attacks, abductions, and violent threats, forcing many to flee their villages and seek shelter in host communities. Insecurity worsened in the northern Boucle du Mouhoun region bordering Mali, marked by over a dozen civilian fatalities, and the killing of two NGO humanitarian workers.

While crisis-affected people remain reliant on urgent life-saving assistance, humanitarian access was hampered by conflict dynamics, insecurity, and restrictive measures by authorities. To avert the dramatic deterioration of hunger and malnutrition in hard-to-reach areas, WFP continued to airlift food via its recently deployed Chinook helicopters, providing a lifeline for thousands of highly food-insecure women, men, girls and boys.

In 2023, 4.7 million people will need humanitarian assistance in Burkina Faso as highlighted by the [Global Humanitarian Overview](#). The Cadre Harmonisé analysis from November 2022 projects that 3.5 million people will face acute food insecurity (IPC 3-5) during the June-August 2023 agricultural lean season of 2023, including 19,000 people facing catastrophic food insecurity (IPC phase 5). As of January 2023, over 1.9 million Burkinabe people have been internally displaced, representing the largest population of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Africa's Central Sahel region according to [UNHCR](#).

**Operational scale-up:** Faced with persistent access challenges, WFP continued to scale up its airlift and road transport capacity to provide life-saving assistance to severely food insecure people located in hard-to-reach areas and blockaded towns. In January and February, WFP reached over 112,000 beneficiaries as part of this scale-up, and plans to reach an additional 128,000 people in March. WFP seeks to extend the scale-up by three months (April-June) to deliver food to 280,000 highly food insecure people. Funding is urgently required, amounting to USD 26.5 million.

**Emergency assistance:** In February, WFP provided unconditional in-kind food and cash-based assistance to nearly 513,000 people, including IDPs, refugees and host communities. Accessing the blockaded towns of Djibo, Arbinda, Titao, Tougan, and Foutouri by Chinook helicopters, WFP delivered 960 mt of life-saving food and nutrition assistance for the benefit of 56,000 people.

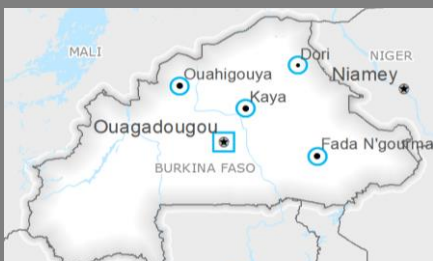
**School feeding:** In February, WFP's school feeding activity continued to support vulnerable schoolchildren, including those forcibly displaced by the conflict. In the Sahel and Plateau-Central regions, WFP provided hot meals to 20,000 schoolchildren (51 percent girls) in 61 schools, as well as take-home rations to 200 schoolgirls. Through its emergency school feeding activity implemented in the Sahel, Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Nord, Nord, and Est regions, WFP provided hot meals to 189,800 schoolchildren (51 percent girls) in 435 schools, as well as take-home rations to 24,100 schoolgirls.

## 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 shocks. Insecurity continues to deteriorate across all regions of Burkina Faso, resulting in mass population displacement. As of 31 January 2023, over 1.9 million people were officially displaced in the country.

Driven by conflict and violence, floods and rising food prices, the food and nutritional security across the country remains critical. According to the Cadre Harmonisé analysis from November 2022, an estimated 2.6 million people were acutely food insecure (IPC phase 3-5) between October and December 2022 – representing a 59 percent increase compared to the same period in 2021. This included over 1,800 people facing catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity (IPC phase 5), all of whom in the province of Soum (Sahel region). Overall, 9.7 percent of children aged 6-59 months suffer from acute malnutrition (2021 SMART National Nutrition Survey).

WFP operations in Burkina Faso include emergency food assistance, school feeding, treatment and prevention of malnutrition, resilience-building activities through food assistance for assets (FFA), smallholder agriculture market support (SAMS) and micro-macro insurance (R4) programmes, national capacity strengthening, logistics and common services, and the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS). WFP has been present in Burkina Faso since 1967.



Population: **21.5 million**

Human Development Index rank (2021): **184 out of 191 countries**

Income level: **low income**

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

**Photo credit:** WFP/ Cheick Omar Bandaogo

**Caption:** Bags of rice loaded into WFP Chinook helicopter as a second one is landing in Ouahigouya, Nord region.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2023 Total Requirements (in USD)	2022 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
345 m	194 m	122 m

### 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 the 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.

**Nutrition:** In February, WFP's moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment programme reached 53,400 children aged 6-59 months (52 percent girls), and 32,200 pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWGs). WFP's MAM activities targeted the Sahel, Nord, Est, Centre-Nord, Centre-Est and Boucle de Mouhoun regions. WFP delivered 21 mt of specialized nutritious foods to Diapaga and Titao by air.

WFP's malnutrition prevention activity reached 18,000 children aged 6-23 months (52 percent girls), and 27,600 PLWGs. Nearly 12,700 young children were screened for malnutrition, with 200 MAM and 40 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases detected. As part of the World Bank-financed project to prevent chronic malnutrition, WFP provided lipid-based nutritional supplements (LNS) to 35,000 children aged 6-23 months (52 percent girls) in Boucle du Mouhoun and Centre-Nord regions.

**Resilience:** Targeting the regions of Sahel, Nord, Centre-Nord, Est, and Plateau-Central, WFP's integrated resilience programme continued to build vulnerable communities' resilience to shocks and stressors, including climate change. In February, WFP's food assistance for assets (FFA) activities involved nearly 323,000 people (54 percent women), through their participation in asset creation and rehabilitation works and planning the corresponding cash-based transfers (CBT) for the following month. Over 3,000 hectares of degraded land were rehabilitated to improve agricultural production, four wells were constructed to irrigate market gardens, 4,860 m3 of compost were produced to improve soil fertility, and 11,000 fuel-efficient stoves were built. WFP organized community-based participatory planning exercises to assist communities in planning resilience activities for 2023.

## United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

In February, UNHAS transported 1,778 passengers and 99 mt of light cargo through 350 flights. The air service was provided to 89 user organisations (72 percent NGO; 27 percent UN; 1 percent donor and diplomatic) and reached 23 destinations across Burkina Faso. UNHAS served Tougan (Boucle du Mouhoun region) as an ad-hoc destination.

## Research, Assessment and Monitoring

In February, a joint market monitor was published by WFP and Burkina Faso's national society for the management of food security stocks (SONAGESS). Covering January, the monitor recorded price variations of +33 percent compared with January 2022, and +77 percent compared with the five-year average for the main staple grains. Market price variations for basic grains are greater than +150 percent in the Sahel, Nord, and Centre-Nord regions compared to last year and the five-year average. In the Sahel, the five-year variation in grain prices is +211, with the highest variations recorded in Djibo (+680) and Sebba (+259) where markets have not been supplied for several months due to blockades.

## Challenges

Humanitarian access continued to be hampered due to the security context and administrative impediments.

Since 1 January 2023, humanitarian and development organisations have been ordered by the Governor of Sahel region to suspend the distribution of cash assistance in the said region. The measure negatively affects WFP's CBT operation which targeted 100,000 people in this region. Since the decision, the Cash Working Group (co-led by WFP and OCHA) has been engaging with national and regional authorities to advocate for the lifting of the suspension and prevent similar suspensions in other regions. The suspension creates negative repercussions for the humanitarian response in Burkina Faso.

WFP's six-month (March – August 2023) **net funding requirements in Burkina Faso amount to USD 122 million.**

## Donors

Donors to WFP Burkina Faso in 2023 include Austria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and United States of America. Additional support was provided by UN Central Emergency Response Fund, Global Partnerships for Education, the SDF fund, and private donors.