Malnutrition and Food Insecurity

Food insecurity and malnutrition rates in Burkina Faso are chronically high; the global acute malnutrition rate (GAM) among children under five years of age is 8.2 percent, and stunting levels stand at 31.5 percent (SMART 2013). Though harvests improved significantly in 2012/2013 compared to the previous year as well as five-year averages, populations are still recovering from the 2012 food and nutrition crisis. The Government’s response plan for 2014 indicates that 1,330,000 people are vulnerable to food insecurity, 500,000 are extremely poor and unable to cover their basic needs, and 7,300 remain displaced by flooding that occurred in 2013. The influx of Malian refugees into the country starting in 2012 has created additional challenges for food security in Burkina Faso, not only for refugees but also for communities surrounding refugee settlements.

WFP Burkina Faso’s response

In 2014, WFP will continue to focus its activities on decreasing and preventing malnutrition among vulnerable groups, strengthening rural households to help them cope with and recover from shocks such as drought, and building the Government’s capacity to tackle food insecurity and malnutrition. WFP aims to cover 10 regions of the country with elevated malnutrition rates—the Sahel, North, East, Boucle de Mouhoun, South West, Centre West, Centre, Plateau Central, Centre East and Centre North regions—through a targeted supplementary feeding programme to treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). In six of these regions, where food insecurity levels are especially high, WFP plans to implement Cash-for-Assets and Cash-for-Training activities. Food and nutrition assistance will also be provided to AIDS orphans and people living with HIV in five urban centres across the country, and primary school children in the Sahel Region will receive school meals. In addition, WFP is working to strengthen Burkina Faso’s agricultural sector by supporting local production of fortified foods and building the capacity of smallholder farmers through the Purchase for Progress initiative. WFP has been active in Burkina Faso since 1967.
Country Programme 200163

Duration: 2011—2015
Beneficiaries: 888,000 (112,000 in 2014)
Commodities: 42,813 metric tonnes
Budget: US$ 50,333,593

Strategic Objectives:
- Support the development of human capital through social protection programmes
- Improve the nutritional status of vulnerable groups
- Increase capacity of small-scale producers to process and market agricultural products

Activities in 2014:
- **Food for Education**: Providing school meals in primary schools helps to increase enrolment and attendance rates and improves the ability of students to concentrate during class. The take-home rations for girls help to reduce gender inequality.
- **Assistance to HIV/AIDS patients**: People living with HIV/AIDS receive micronutrient-rich food rations, which are essential for successful treatment. Assistance is also provided to children who have been orphaned by AIDS.
- The Country Programme aims to support local production of fortified foods, especially of flours for infants. In addition, WFP is working to strengthen the agricultural sector through its Purchase for Progress initiative, which supports smallholder farmers by helping to increase their production.

Regional EMOP (200438): Assistance to Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons Affected by Insecurity in Mali (Burkina Faso component)

Duration: June 2012—December 2014
Beneficiaries: 35,000 (2014)
Budget: US$ 8.1 million (2014)
Commodities: 3,967 MT (2014)

Through the Regional EMOP, WFP aims to ensure the food and nutrition needs of Malian refugees in Burkina Faso.

Activities in 2014:
- **General food distributions**: Combined food and cash rations for refugees in official sites, providing for a daily diet of 2,100 kilocalories.
- **MAM treatment**: Targeted supplementary feeding for children aged 6–59 months as well as for pregnant and nursing women suffering from moderate acute malnutrition.
- **Emergency school feeding**: School meals for refugee children in primary school with rations aligned with those of the Country Programme.

PRRO 200509: Building Resilience and Reducing Malnutrition

Duration: April 2013—December 2014
Beneficiaries: 1,420,000 (817,000 in 2014)
Commodities: 10,258 metric tonnes
Budget: US$ 49,936,842

Strategic Objectives:
- Improve the nutrition status of children aged 6–59 months with moderate acute malnutrition and people living with HIV
- Improve retention of children with severe acute malnutrition at in-patient treatment centres
- Strengthen the resilience and capacity of households and communities to withstand shocks; restore and rebuild the livelihoods of households recovering from shocks
- Reinforce national capacity to tackle food insecurity and malnutrition

Activities in 2014:
- Targeted **supplementary feeding** for treatment of MAM amongst children aged 6—59 months and pregnant and nursing women
- **Incentive rations** to caretakers of children receiving treatment for severe acute malnutrition
- The creation and preservation of community and household assets in shock-prone, marginal and degraded areas through Cash-for-Asset activities
- **Cash-for-Training** activities to provide technical skills that enable participants to diversify their income sources

Top Donors 2013 (US$)
United Kingdom—US$ 4.6 million;
Switzerland—US$ 3.1 million; Belgium—US$ 2.6 million; Australia—US$ 2.5 million; France—US$ 2.3 million; Germany—US$ 2 million; Netherlands—US$ 1.9 million