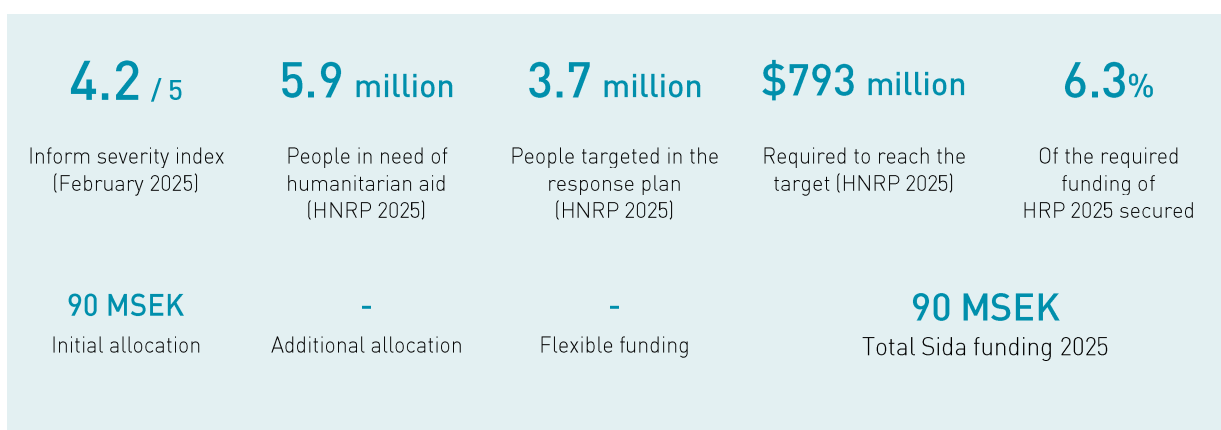


1. Crisis overviewⁱ



Since 2019, Burkina Faso faces one of the largest internal displacement crises in West Africa. The multifaceted crisis is driven by conflict, armed violence and climate shocks in combination with socioeconomic inequalities. Political instability linked to deteriorating insecurity led to two military coups in 2022. Burkina Faso is ranked as the country most impacted by terrorism on the Global Terrorism Index, accounting for nearly a quarter of all deaths from terrorism globally. It has become the epicentre of armed group violence in the Central Sahel region, in particular the northwestern parts near the borders to Mali and Niger. The armed violence has increasingly spread to other regions of the country. While the government claims they have regained control of 80 per cent of the territory, some analysts say armed groups exert strong influence over a similar portion of the territory.

The already complex humanitarian situation in Burkina Faso has been exacerbated by deteriorating security and humanitarian access. Access constraints are ranked 5 out of 5, according to ACAPS, and movement within the country is severely restricted as a result of the hostilities between regular security forces and armed groups. Blockades and the presence of explosive devices hamper access to populations in hard-to-reach areas.

Burkina Faso's humanitarian crisis continues to grow. Some 5.9 million people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2025, compared to 6.3 million people in 2024. This corresponds to a fourth of the country's population of a little over 23 million. The reason for a decreased number of people in need in 2025 does not reflect an improvement in the situation but rather a different methodology to estimate 'people in need'. Burkina Faso is among the

‘hunger hotspot’ countries, with acute food insecurity levels of high concern. In 2024, Burkina Faso has experienced a continued degradation in food security and sanitary conditions for affected populations, according to REACH.

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

Internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities, pastoral and peri-urban populations are particularly affected by conflict. Of particular concern are people in hard-to-reach areas and areas with projected high levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition. Food insecurity and malnutrition coincide with violence-affected regions, and include Est, Sahel, Nord, Centre-Nord, Boucle du Mouhoun and Centre-Est. These regions are all partly controlled by armed groups. Areas besieged by armed groups restrict the movement of humanitarian responders, as well as crisis-affected people. Damaged roads and bridges leave populations reachable only by air travel. In cities like Djibo, armed groups have prevented movements and entry of essential supplies. The last official figures from March 2023 state that more than two million people, one in ten Burkinabè, are internally displaced. A majority are children. The number of IDPs continue to increase, including repeated displacement by the same affected populations. The transition government reports large numbers of returnees which are difficult for the humanitarian community to verify. Burkina Faso also hosts around 40,000 refugees, primarily from Mali. Yet, Burkina Faso has been ranked as the world’s most neglected displacement crisis by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) for the second year in a row.

The targeting of civilians is a main protection risk faced by men, women, and children with deadly attacks triggering new waves of displacement. In 2024, the number of fatalities linked to violent events (according to ACLED data) was slightly below that in 2023, while three times higher than in 2020 and 2021. 2024 also saw the largest attack on civilians since 2015 in Barsalogho in August. Other main protection risks include assaults on civilians, abductions, kidnappings, arbitrary arrests and detentions, and forced disappearances. This has worsened remarkably since 2023. Incidents of gender-based violence (GBV) pose a significant protection risk particularly for women and girls. Incidents caused by improvised explosive devices are another major risk.

Internal displacements puts pressure on already limited resources available to host communities. As most of the population are small-scale farmers and herders, access to land, grazing and water is crucial. Armed groups actively aim to gain control over infrastructure and scarce natural resources. Many people are forced to adopt negative coping mechanisms, for example getting involved with armed groups, criminality or prostitution. Access to services such as health centres, markets and water points is deteriorating. Average staple food prices are higher than the five-year average, which erodes households’ resilience to shocks. Numerous schools in conflict-affected regions are closed which affect more than 800,000 boys and girls. The transition government reports large numbers of re-opened schools in conflict-affected areas but this remains difficult to verify for the donor community. Furthermore, the closure of health facilities in 10 out of 13 regions, particularly in Sahel, Est and Centre-Nord, affects four million people, in particular pregnant women, children, people with disabilities and people with chronic

diseases. The humanitarian crisis combined with climate change, access challenges and deliberate attacks on critical water sources, severely limits access to essential clean water, leading to increased mortality, acute malnutrition and waterborne illnesses. Mental health issues often remain unaddressed, despite high needs for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

Despite improved national cereal production in the agricultural season 2024/25, food insecurity is expected to worsen in 2025 in hard-to-reach areas with high numbers of IDPs. Emergency levels (IPC phase 4 or worse) are projected for poor households in conflict-affected and access constrained areas (including Yalgo, Dori, and Gorom-Gorom). From February to April 2025, an improvement in the nutritional situation is expected followed by a marked deterioration (in 12 provinces) during the lean season from May to July 2025. The biggest challenge is access to reliable data as the March 2025 data collection exercise related to the ‘Cadre Harmonisé’ (harmonized with IPC) did not take place. Improved access that enables the delivery of urgent life-saving assistance remains critical, but also very expensive when undertaken by helicopter, and controversial when done through convoys using armed escorts. WFP is experimenting with new approaches to more cost-effective delivery in consultation with national authorities.

3. The humanitarian response

The humanitarian cluster system was activated in 2019 and humanitarian coordination has since gradually been scaled up. The national response, including the registration of IDPs, is managed through the National Committee for Emergency Assistance and Recovery (CONASUR). In 2024, out of 6.3 million ‘people in need’, the HRP targeted 3.8 million people but only reached an estimated 1.6 million people, primarily due to underfunding (46 percent of estimated financial needs reported by the end of the year). For 2025, estimated ‘people in need’ (5.9 million) and financial needs (793 MUSD) have been reduced, with a little over 6 percent coverage by March 2025. The announced cuts in US funding have a significant if not yet fully visible impact. The share of US funding in 2024 varies between 50 percent and 60 percent depending on sources, and the impact on humanitarian operations in early 2025 is in the same magnitude. Several humanitarian operations, sub-offices and entire organisations have closed. Other key humanitarian donors (UK, Germany, France) are also announcing budget cuts, if not as drastic as the US, which means that Burkina Faso may well be in a situation where the HRP only mobilises 10- 20 percent of estimated funding needs. The Humanitarian Country Team is adapting the response in light of the new funding landscape and is currently undertaking a re-prioritization exercise which is likely to focus on the most severely affected areas and population. Further, all humanitarian actors seek cost reduction measures where possible, including in coordination and in hard-to-reach areas where aid delivery is very expensive. The Government of Burkina Faso has indicated they may increase their contribution under national response plans (*Plan National Réponse Humanitaire, Plan de Réponse et de Soutien aux Populations Vulnérables*) but this has not yet been confirmed. Sweden contributed 2.5 percent of total humanitarian funding in 2024.

Key challenges in the humanitarian response have been the access constraints imposed by the deteriorating security situation in the country, with areas under blockade increasing from 13 in 2022 to around 40 in 2024, as well as limited logistical capacity. Other factors affecting the delivery of principled humanitarian assistance include imposed military escorts for commercial fleets and limited civil-military coordination. Furthermore, humanitarian organisations are strongly affected by criminality and violence, with several reported attacks on supply convoy which delay and complicate the delivery of essential items, and increased difficulty to provide humanitarian assistance in areas under blockade.

An analysis of the humanitarian assistance reaching people living in enclaved areas in 2023 showed that the majority of interventions (80 per cent) focused on ten towns hosting a large number of IDPs while in other hard-to-reach locations aid delivery only reached a small proportion (one per cent) of people in need. Localised and community-based approaches have been adopted by humanitarian actors as the main strategy to overcome access issues, as they are better placed to deliver in hard-to-reach-areas and hence enables the humanitarian response to still function. FEWS NET estimates that several regions, for example Sahel and Est, that are now at crisis level (IPC phase 3) would likely be at least one phase worse without the current or planned humanitarian food assistance.

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

Sida's humanitarian allocation will continue to prioritise flexible funding that enables the delivery of rapid, life-saving humanitarian assistance where and when needs arise. To achieve its core objective, humanitarian responses that span across all sectors are needed to adequately address the basic needs of the affected populations. Preventing and responding to the protection risks must be central in the response both as integrated in all sectors and as stand-alone interventions. With the number of people facing acute food and nutrition insecurity expected to rise during the lean season 2025, addressing the immediate needs of affected households will be critical. Mobile clinics and community-based interventions that reach vulnerable populations in hard-to-reach areas with integrated medical, nutrition, MHPSS and protection services will be supported. The destruction of water sources necessitates addressing access to WASH. Given the restrictions on use of cash and vouchers in certain localities imposed in 2023 and eventually forbidden in all provinces in 2024, in-kind support is expected to be the main modality used by partners in 2025 with increased logistical and operational costs as a consequence.

The context requires advocating for and supporting an enabling environment for the delivery of principled and needs-based humanitarian assistance that extends to crisis-affected populations irrespective of their status. This also implies partnerships that support the promotion of international humanitarian law (IHL) and effective civil-military coordination. Community-based approaches and building the capacity of local and national actors to provide a principled humanitarian response in conflict areas will continue to be supported.

INITIAL ALLOCATION (SEK)		
PARTNER	SECTOR	INITIAL ALLOCATION
AAH	Health, Nutrition, WASH, Protection, Food Security	16,000,000 ¹
DRC	Protection	10,000,000
ICRC	Multi-sector	22,000,000
UNICEF	Multi-sector	22,000,000
WFP	Food Security	20,000,000
TOTAL		90,000,000

ⁱ The 2025 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.

¹ Already committed in 2023.