

1. Crisis overviewⁱ

4.1 / 5	5.9 million	3.7 million	\$793 million	22 %
Inform severity index	People in need of humanitarian aid (HNRP 2025)	People targeted in the response plan (HNRP 2025)	Required to reach the target (HNRP 2025)	Of the required funding secured (HNRP 2025)
90 MSEK	-	8.6 MSEK	98.6 MSEK	
Initial allocation	Additional allocation	Flexible funding	Total Sida funding 2025	

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, including the borders with Ghana, Togo and Benin. While the government claims they have regained control of 80 per cent of the territory, 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 by ACAPS, and movement within the country is severely restricted as a result of the hostilities between security forces and armed groups. Blockades and the presence of explosive devices hamper access to populations in hard-to-reach areas. ACAPS estimates that at least 40 towns and villages, primarily in Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, and Sahel regions, were under blockade by the end of 2024, affecting up to two million people. Many of these areas have been cut off from regular humanitarian access for over a year. The number of blockaded locations in 2025 remains unknown because of access constraints and underreporting, especially in locations where humanitarian organisations cannot operate.

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 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 mal- and undernutrition 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. These figures are however contested. As a comparison, during the period January to September 2025, 299,000 people were displaced, which is very similar to the same period last year. The transition government further reports large numbers of returnees which are difficult to verify. Burkina Faso also hosts around 42,000 refugees, primarily from Mali.

The targeting of civilians by all sides of the conflict is the main protection risk, faced by men, women and children with deadly attacks triggering new waves of displacement. The conflict, which has persisted for nearly a decade, recorded 7,483 conflict-related fatalities in 2024, with an additional 2,034 reported during the first quarter of 2025 – a figure that, while lower than the 8,498 deaths recorded in 2023, reflects sustained high levels of violence across the country. Other significant 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) is a significant protection risk, particularly for women and girls. Improvised explosive devices constitute 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 prone to adopt negative coping mechanisms, such as joining armed groups, engaging in criminality, or resorting to prostitution. Access to services such as health centres, markets and water points is deteriorating. The average staple food prices are higher than the five-year average, which erodes households' shock resilience. Numerous schools in conflict-affected regions are closed which affects 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. 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). The estimated people in need in 2025 is 5.9 million, which is slightly less than in 2024 (6.3 million), with people targeted initially set to 3.7 million but later re-prioritized to 1.2 million (32 per cent of the initial target). For 2025, the initial financial request was set to 793 MUS\$ which was later re-prioritized to 280 MSUD. As of September 2025, the HNRP is 22 per cent funded, or 62 per cent funded for the re-prioritised target. In addition to the US cuts, several key humanitarian donors (UK, Germany, France) are also announcing budget cuts, albeit less drastic. Several humanitarian operations, sub-offices and entire organisations have had to close. The Government of Burkina Faso has indicated they may increase their contribution under the national response plans (*Plan National Réponse Humanitaire, Plan de Réponse et de Soutien aux Populations Vulnérables*) but this has not yet been confirmed. Sweden's share of overall funding to the coordinated plan is 4 per cent as of September.

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. Other factors affecting the delivery of principled humanitarian assistance include imposed military escorts for commercial fleets, limited (but seemingly improving) civil-military coordination, restrictions on data collections and analysis and a new

law on associations potentially making it more difficult for civil society to operate. In addition to administrative constraints, the political environment is perceived as challenging for both the UN system and NGOs. The Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) was expelled in August 2025 following a report by the UN Secretary General which accused all armed actors, including government forces and government affiliated militias, of perpetrating violations against children. Several international and local NGOs have been suspended and some have had their staff arrested while inquiries are ongoing. 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 continues 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 the use of cash and vouchers since 2023/24, in-kind support is the preferred 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

FLEXIBLE FUNDING & ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS 2025 (SEK)		
PARTNER	FLEXIBLE FUNDING ²	ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION
PUI	990,000	-
NRC	3,000,000	-
OCHA Field Coordination ³	3,500,000	-
MSB ⁴	1,100,000	-
TOTAL	8,590,000	-

¹ 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.

² Flexible funding includes a mix of allocations such as Rapid Response Mechanism and other flexible funding mechanisms.

³ Sida provides flexible funding to OCHA's field coordination, and this preliminary allocation is therefore subject to change.

⁴ Sida provides flexible funding to MSB, and this allocation is therefore subject to change.