Each year, Sida conducts a humanitarian allocation exercise in which a large part of its humanitarian budget is allocated to emergencies worldwide. The allocation and subsequent disbursement of funds takes place in the beginning of the year to ensure predictability for humanitarian organizations and to allow for the best possible operational planning. Sida’s humanitarian assistance is based on the four humanitarian principles, in particular impartiality, with its compelling urge to ensure that humanitarian action is carried out based on “needs alone”, giving priority to the “most urgent cases of distress”. Therefore, Sida’s allocation methodology is grounded in several objective indicators such as: the scale of humanitarian needs (number of people in need), the severity of humanitarian needs (including food insecurity/IPC levels), the number of people targeted for the humanitarian response, the financial coverage of the respective humanitarian appeal, national capacities to respond and underlying risks, as well as distinct indicators related to forgotten crises. Sida also strongly supports the humanitarian coordination structures.

For 2021, Burkina Faso is allocated an initial 47 MSEK. Close monitoring and analysis of the situation in Burkina Faso will continue throughout the year and inform possible decisions on additional funding.

1 Crisis overview

1.1 Humanitarian overview

Escalating violence is leading to massive internal displacement in Burkina Faso. During 2020, this has been one of the world’s fastest growing humanitarian crises. Despite the urgency, Burkina Faso ranked third out of the ten most neglected crises in the world, according to NRC’s annual neglected displacement crises list released in June 2020.

The situation is exacerbated by the consequences of COVID-19 restrictions and environmental effects, accelerated by climate change. The presence of armed groups and criminal networks and a surge in violence against the civilian population have characterized the regions of Sahel, Centre Nord, Nord and Est. Increased attacks and community tensions between farmers and herders, instrumentalized by armed groups, led to the proliferation of self-defense militias (referred to as Koglweogo). Burkina Faso has taken military action and is also part of the joint force to combat illegal smuggling and terrorism around the borders in the Sahel region (G5 Sahel). In January 2020, the parliament adopted a legislation that allowed the army to use
civilian volunteers (Volontaires pour la Défense de la Patrie (VDP) recruited and trained for two weeks to protect villages from attacks conducted by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG).

In December 2020, the number of IDPs reached 1,074,993 (among them approximately 60% children) compared to 614,000 at the beginning of the year. Most IDPs are registered in the regions of Sahel and Centre Nord although the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2021 covers six regions all affected by insecurity, food insecurity and low access to basic services. The rapidly increasing number of IDPs has put an extra burden on host families. During 2020, an increase in temporary and spontaneous sites and similar structures was observed. Many of these also lack an structured organisation and management. People are displaced several times and moving further away from their place of origin and extended family into urban areas, creating a demographic pressure, tension and less acceptance by the local population. In Djibo and Gorgadji, the number of IDPs is higher than the host population.

Burkina Faso ranks 182 in the Human Development Index. Poverty and lack of access to social services including education, health, WASH and justice add to the vulnerability of the population. Attacks on schools and health center are recurrent. The last twelve months have seen a rise in attacks against schools and teachers in Burkina Faso, including the burning of schools, looting of schools, abduction, threats and killing of teachers forcing 2,169 schools to shut down, depriving 300,000 of children from education (December 2020). Approximately, 1 million people did not have access to health care as insecurity forced 91 health centres to close and 232 working at a minimum capacity.

The widespread violence affects people’s protection and livelihoods. Access to fields and markets is becoming even more challenging with the consequence that families cannot meet their food security. Both internally displaced people and refugees heavily depend on humanitarian aid as they have lost their means of subsistence. As many as 70% of households in the regions of Sahel and Centre Nord indicated that humanitarian assistance was the main way of accessing cereals.

High levels of food needs are driven by the continued insecurity and the lean season, while COVID-19 exacerbates existing vulnerabilities. According to the updated Cadre Harmonisé released in August 2020, over 3 million people faced food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification/IPC phase 3 to 5). This represented more than a 50 percent increase since the March Cadre Harmonisé. Two provinces in the Sahel region were in phase 4 (Emergency) with pockets of populations in phase 5 (Famine) reported. Factors which will determine how the situation evolves include humanitarian access to conflict-affected areas, further displacement in response to violence and insecurity, harvest outcomes and further possible COVID-19-related restrictions among others. The Cadre Harmonisé projects that 2.7 million people will be in IPC phase 3 -5 in June-August 2021.

Conflict and tensions between population groups around natural resources and migration patterns (for pasture) have intensified during 2020 in areas where the presence of armed groups also limit the possibility of movement. In addition, these regions, mainly Sahel, Boucle du Mouhoun and Est, have been affected by climate related disasters such as flooding during the year.
There are serious challenges linked to the lack of protection and violations of human rights, international humanitarian law and other norms that need to be addressed. The population in areas affected by insecurity is vulnerable to various protection risks including physical attacks and violence, killings, theft and looting, mines and explosive devices and Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV). In 2020, 66 mine related incidents were recorded with over 150 victims, an increase compared with 2019 that recorded 49 incidents with 82 victims for the full year.

There are major needs in all sectors and a multi-sector response with protection at the center will be required.

The regions of Sahel, Centre Nord, Nord East and Boucle du Mounhoun have been severely impacted by the presence of armed groups and increased community tensions. Food insecurity and malnutrition are high in areas affected by violence where livelihoods have been limited by insecurity and displacement. In 2020, partners reported serious access challenges in various locations including in the Sahel and Est regions. In addition, a sixth region was added to the HRP for 2021, Centre-Est region, where displacement is expected to increase due to the geographical expansion of the conflict.

Especially high needs as per HRP 2021 have been identified in Djibou, Arbinda, Tongomayel followed by Tin-Akoff, Solle, Barsalogo and Bourum in the Nord, Centre Nord and Sahel regions. Some of these areas are identified as being very hard to reach while others are located in areas that are reachable but that have very low coverage. This is important to note as some of those needs could increasingly be addressed by development actors so that humanitarian actors could concentrate on the most urgent needs in hard to reach areas.

Challenges linked to insecurity and humanitarian access are increasing and there is no indication of the humanitarian situation improving during 2021, rather a deterioration in regions such as Centre-Est. The conflict between armed groups and change of leadership could lead to more forced and under-age recruitment and the intensification of attacks by armed groups against national armed forces, G5 Sahel and foreign forces. This may increasingly affect civilians caught in fighting or by restricting movement and access to agricultural fields or pasture. It will also most probably lead to continued massive displacement as there is a raise in “preventative” displacements meaning that the population flee when they perceive a threat or have a general feeling of insecurity.

Burkina Faso is affected by climate change and cyclical droughts and floods are expected to continue. The most challenging period for farmers and pastoralists is usually between June and August but depends on the previous wet season. Markets (food and animal markets) in areas affected by insecurity and displacement (Soum, l’Oudalan and Sanmatenga) are less active or activities interrupted due to security, which impacts on the livelihood situation of the population. The consequences of restrictions due to COVID-19 will continue to aggravate both protection and humanitarian needs.

Most probably the discussion around more long-term solutions and return of IDPs will intensify during 2021. According to the protection cluster and in consultations with IDPs, 77 % would
like to return to their place of origin, however, 91 % do not want to return at the time of the interview due to insecurity.

1.2 Affected population

The civilian population is facing major violations of human rights, international humanitarian law and other norms, including killings, sexual violence, arbitrary arrest, destruction of civilian property, forced recruitment, destruction of infrastructure limiting access to basic social services and limitation of free movement.

Displacement contributes to heightened risk of gender-based violence (GBV), including rape and aggressions, mainly affecting women and girls. Due to the fact that men are most vulnerable to killings and abductions during attacks by non-state armed groups (NSAG) (42 % men vs. 12 % women), when possible men take refuge in more secure zones leaving old people, women and children in the villages. Women and girls are then exposed to sexual violence when for example gathering wood and water. Overall vulnerabilities, including people living with disabilities, are often exacerbated by the deteriorating humanitarian situation.

The use of mines and explosive devices and the threat of remnants of war also constitute an important protection risk; it affects access to the population in need of humanitarian support and also restrict the movement of the population.

Children and young people are particularly affected by the crisis, schools are closed due to insecurity which may lead to reinforcing negative strategies such as early and forced marriage, recruitment and forced labour. During 2020, the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) was activated in Burkina Faso to register reports on grave violations against children. This is followed by interventions to support child survivors and advocacy to end violations.

The volatile security situation makes it increasingly difficult for humanitarian workers to access the people most in need, particularly those in hard-to-reach communities.

The vulnerability of the population in Burkina Faso is generally high especially in rural area where most of the population is poor and where most attacks are carried out. Restricted access to agriculture fields and pasture, the destruction of production infrastructures, livestock loss and looting, as well as the intensification of intercommunal conflict have hindered market functioning and eroded livelihoods. COVID-19 has negatively affected the economy, livelihoods and income, with a severe impact on the most vulnerable population while pushing more people into food insecurity. In hosting areas, including urban centers, competition for resources is exacerbated by high population concentration, affecting social cohesion and the sustainability of resources. Multiple challenges are eroding the resilience among the population and there are high risks that the population will increasingly turn to negative coping mechanisms.
2 The humanitarian response

2.1 National and local response

Elections in November 2020, were conducted without any major incidents and President Kabore was re-elected for another five years. The capacity of the Government to respond to the crisis is rather low and the military response to increasing insecurity is requiring financial resources. The humanitarian response is also still relatively new to Burkina Faso and many actors, including the Government, have to shift from development to humanitarian interventions, while ensuring that development gains are not lost. There is a need to continue to provide capacity building, resources and tools for an adequate humanitarian response. Civil society has traditionally been strongly engaged and is an asset in the response with the right capacity building support. Due to the challenges linked to access, humanitarian actors are also increasingly working on community based approaches. Government and development actors are actively engaging in maintaining the development gains in the affected areas. Development interventions have been adjusted to respond to both COVID-19 as such and the effects of the restrictions but also to build resilience among the population and to decrease humanitarian needs.

Efforts are ongoing to ensure that national systems are adapted to the situation in crisis affected areas and that for example social safety nets include both IDPs and host communities. There are also on-going efforts to ensure that development and humanitarian actors align on modalities in regards to cash programming.

The cluster system is in place and clusters are led by the relevant ministry with co-lead by one UN agency in cooperation with one INGO as co-coordinators. This has the potential to increase the involvement of the Government in the humanitarian response and support nexus programming. There is an urgent need of building the Government’s knowledge and understanding of the humanitarian principles and the importance of independence and neutrality of humanitarian actors, the need to negotiate humanitarian access with relevant groups and to limit administrative procedures to facilitate a rapid response to the most urgent humanitarian needs.

2.2 International response

There is a Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator and a UN Country Team (UNCT) that provide leadership and coordinate the international humanitarian response. As mentioned above, the cluster system is in place on national level and certain clusters are represented on a sub-national level. More measures will be taken during 2021 to ensure presence in the six regions that are part of the 2021 HRP. In addition, UNHAS is now active in the country and a helicopter is serving the humanitarian community, which has increased access to hard to reach areas. The Civil/Military Coordination Platform is in place on national level and also in certain regions, an effort has been done during the year to ensure the group meets regularly and with the appropriate representation. An access group is also in place and a very recent Rapid Response coordinating group is led by OCHA and co-led by Action Against Hunger (AAH).
The 2021 HRP identifies 3.5 million people in need and targets 2.9 million with a focus on critical needs of a multi-sector response placing protection at the centre while aligning humanitarian planning with development partners’ efforts to support the Government in prioritizing and sequencing international assistance towards prevention and resilience activities. The humanitarian strategy focuses on providing life-saving support and expanding affected communities’ access to essential services, particularly where the State is unable to provide services.

The 2020 HRP is funded to 44.7 percent with the main donors being US, Germany, EU, UK, Japan, and Sweden. Donors can play an important role in supporting a more timely and effective humanitarian response by providing flexible humanitarian funding while maintaining development funding including to the affected regions. Humanitarian donors are meeting regularly under the lead of ECHO, Sweden is an active participant and appreciates the opportunity to coordinate with other donors around effective humanitarian coordination, protection and the response in general.

2.3 Challenges and risks for the humanitarian response

Access to affected population is a challenge due to the security situation. In a study conducted by OCHA at the beginning of 2020, 18 percent (28) of 159 communes were considered to have high access constraints. Most affected are in the regions of Sahel and Est.

Another challenge is that the humanitarian system still is under development in Burkina Faso, more work is needed to strengthen Civil/Military coordination and training, data collection and analysis, training on humanitarian principles and building trust with affected communities. There is also a need to support national structures and civil society organizations (CSOs) in adapting to the situation and increase the understanding of a principled humanitarian assistance.

The continued, and growing, insecurity including the threat of mines and explosive devises, criminality and violence - affect humanitarian workers directly. In addition, the lack of openness to humanitarian negotiation negatively influences access. At the same time, the affected population is prevented from moving to access humanitarian assistance due to the threat of attacks, mines and explosive devises and general criminality. Consequently, humanitarian assistance is centered in accessible areas and the most vulnerable population in hard to reach areas risk missing out on life-saving assistance, despite constant efforts by humanitarian actors to reach those hardest to reach. There is a risk that certain communities have the perception that assistance is only targeting a certain population, which in turn may increase community tensions. During the year, access was also negatively affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

3 Sida’s humanitarian allocation

3.1 The role of Sida’s humanitarian support

At the beginning of 2020, the initial allocation from Sida’s humanitarian funding to Burkina Faso was 34 MSEK. By end of the year, this figure increased to more than a 100 MSEK as a result of additional support from the humanitarian reserve and Sida’s multilateral humanitarian
partners’ unallocated Sida funding dedicated to a new or rapidly deteriorating situations. Sida has prioritized flexible funding with a focus on multi-sector response and protection.

The flexibility of Sida’s funding has been appreciated by partners as it has enabled a rapid response to the needs in a changing situation. Sida has been careful in the number of partners in the portfolio so close monitoring and dialogue can be maintained. Sweden’s advocacy on the situation in the Sahel was strengthened by a high-level visit to Burkina Faso during the year. In 2021, the aim is to build on Sweden’s common understanding and analysis of the situation to further advocate for a principled, appropriate and effective humanitarian response.

3.2 Allocation Priorities 2021

For 2021, Sida will continue to prioritize flexible funding that can support rapid, adequate and life-saving interventions based on where and when needs are identified. There is a need to support both IDPs and host communities in the six priority regions.

Taken the context into consideration, protection needs will be prioritized in the response. While providing a multi-sectoral response to address the most urgent needs of the affected population, reducing the protection risks that people in Burkina Faso face must be central in the response both as integrated in all sectors and as stand-alone interventions. Sida will promote the HCT protection strategy as part of advocacy and dialogue with partners and other actors.

As per Sweden’s Humanitarian Assistance Strategy through Sida 2021-2025, a principled humanitarian response will be the focus and Sida will follow the development of the humanitarian response to safeguard this aspect and in addition advocating for a strong civil/military coordination and access to the most vulnerable populations.

3.3 Partners

Sida monitors each partner’s adherence to gender marker codes, conflict sensitivity, resilience, and accountability as well as their capacity to contribute to the protection of people affected by the crisis irrespective of their sector-specific expertise. Sida aims at maintaining a smaller number of partners in Burkina Faso to allow a close dialogue, follow up and monitoring.

**Action Against Hunger (AAH)** aims to pursue and strengthen its multi-sectoral emergency response in 2021 in all regions targeted by the HRP. The programme will include: nutrition and health, WASH, shelter/Non-food items (NFI), protection and psychosocial support, and food security and livelihoods (FSL). Sida is contributing to the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Frontline through AAH in a consortium with Solidarités International (SI), Handicap International (HI) and Danish Refugee Council (DRC). AAH is also active in the coordination of the humanitarian response both on national and sub-national level and has good access even in hard-to reach areas.

**International Rescue Committee’s (IRC)** project will be implemented in the Soum province of the Sahel region, the Loroum and Yatenga provinces of the Nord region. The project will focus on a holistic protection response to the most vulnerable populations to meet their basic needs through life-saving activities, whilst providing protection prevention and response services to women, girls and boys. The intervention will focus on two strategic outcome areas
of IRC ongoing programming and upcoming Strategic Action Plan (SAP): Safety (Protection) and Economic Wellbeing. The programme will be monitored during 2021 to ensure that lessons learned are contributing to a wider learning agenda on community based approaches to protection.

**International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** will focus on protection and emergency response activities including basic social services in the regions most affected by violence. ICRC has a unique position due to its mandate on IHL and is a key partner to advance the protection agenda in Burkina Faso. Sida is providing support to the 2021 appeal.

**United Nation’s Childrens Fund (UNICEF)** will respond to the humanitarian situation in Burkina Faso by increasing its presence in the field; intensifying its community-based partnerships, particularly in areas with restricted humanitarian access; involving affected populations in identifying solutions to issues affecting children; and strengthening the linkages between humanitarian action, development programmes and peacebuilding efforts. By applying a community-based approach and working to rebuild social cohesion in Burkina Faso, UNICEF’s humanitarian response will contribute to addressing the root causes of the crisis.

**World Food Programme (WFP)/UN Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS)** has a unique position in supporting logistical arrangements ensuring access to the most vulnerable.

### Sida’s humanitarian allocation to the Burkina Faso crisis in 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended partner for Sida support</th>
<th>Sector/focus of work and response modalities</th>
<th>Proposed amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAH</td>
<td>Multi-sector response in the 6 regions and RRM / Frontline for a rapid and flexible response.</td>
<td>15 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRC</td>
<td>The proposed project will be implemented in the Soum province of the Sahel region, the Loroum and Yatenga provinces of the Nord region with focus on protection and economic well-being.</td>
<td>8 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICRC</td>
<td>Protection and emergency response activities including basic social services in the regions most affected by violence</td>
<td>10 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>Multi-sector in all 6 regions according to Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal 2021</td>
<td>10 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFP/UNHAS</td>
<td>Logistics/transportation</td>
<td>4 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL: 47 000 000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.4 **Strategic humanitarian funding and longer-term assistance**

The impacts of climate change as well as escalating levels of violence and insecurity has increased both the multidimensional poverty and vulnerability in Burkina Faso. The international response is required to simultaneously deal with and reduce peoples’ needs, risks and vulnerability, to strengthen their resilience and address underlying causes of crises/conflict (in line with the DAC recommendation on Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus).

In addition to humanitarian assistance, Sweden has substantive development support and has the potential to play an important role in the dialogue with donors and partners around the HDP nexus. Through the development strategy for Burkina Faso 2018-2022, amounting to an
average of 300 MSEK/year, Sweden aims to contribute to greater respect for human rights, institutional capacity growth, increased resilience to crises and disasters, environmentally and climate-resilient sustainable development, and improved opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.

The strategy has two main objectives: i) Human rights, democracy, the rule of law and gender equality; and ii) Basic public services and livelihood opportunities.

Through its strong focus on building resilience to crises and disasters, focusing on the poorest and most vulnerable such as displaced communities, the strategy allows for a close connect with humanitarian efforts, particularly in the areas of livelihoods/agriculture, management of natural resources and access to social services and social security in addition to human rights and protection. Since the operationalisation of the strategy, the Embassy has also actively explored how development funding can cover the five regions with largest vulnerability. The following development contributions are building on and complementing humanitarian support to reinforce resilience building:

- **FAO projet d’urgence (OSRO/BKF/801/SWE) 2018-2021** aims at strengthening capacity of the most vulnerable households to make them resilient to external chocks and more capable to produce their own food. It includes a humanitarian component providing unconditional cash and cash for work for people affected by the food crises. For the long-term activities, it provides seeds, fertilisers, livestock support, technical and nutritional training and supports women to run vegetable gardens. The peace dimension of the programme is implicit, with interventions working to reduce community tensions.

- **Beog-Puuto (Farms of the future) 2018-2022** seeks to restore the fertility of soil and boost agricultural economy - it is intended as an in-depth pilot which could be replicated to restore agricultural production in the region. It is based on a locally led approach to boosting the resilience of 50 000 of the poorest and most vulnerable households in the insecure areas in northern and eastern Burkina Faso.

- **Weoog Paani (New Forests) 2019-2024** seeks to increase income and strengthen resilience of vulnerable forest-dependent households in 25 rural communes. It works through improved governance, restauration of forests and strengthened value chains which are most relevant to increasing resilience and strengthening the role of women.

There is also a recent support to International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO) that aims at supporting humanitarian and development actors with information and training on security topics. Social protection is supported through UNICEF and the development of a national social protection strategy and a field pilot project targeting children below 5 years of age.

The Embassy, through the humanitarian focal point has a continued dialogue with the humanitarian unit to increase synergies between humanitarian-development-peace support. This is strengthened by collaboration with the nexus programme officer from the regional team based at the Embassy in Ouagadougou.
Opportunities to further increase coherence during 2021:

- Increased engagement on nexus-issues through follow-up of programmes that contribute to addressing both humanitarian and chronic needs, through continued close collaboration with the humanitarian unit and increased humanitarian capacity at the Embassy.
- Updating of the multidimensional poverty analysis (MDPA) and in-depth strategy report.
- Strengthen dialogue with other donors and partners on strengthening coherence between hum-dev-peace efforts in Burkina Faso, based on the DAC recommendation on the HDP nexus, while advocating for a principled humanitarian response.
- Further develop collaboration with the regional strategy for Sub-Saharan Africa when it comes to complementarity in the areas of resilience.
- UNICEF Social protection.
4 References

ACAPS (www.acaps.org)

Le Conseil National de Secours d’Urgence et de Réhabilitation (CONASUR), Situation Reports

HCT Protection Strategy 2020-21

Ministry of Health : Enquête nutritionnelle dans la commune de Djibo au Burkina Faso selon la méthodologie Rapid SMART, Octobre 2020


OCHA : Situation Reports Burkina Faso and Apercu de la situation humanitaire (Dec 2020)

REACH: Resource centre

UNICEF: Situation Reports

WFP: Situation Reports