

Burkina Faso



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1. Summary

Burkina remains concerned with the crisis in neighbouring countries and plays an active role to promote peace and stability in the sub region. In October, Burkina was elected as a non permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2008–2009.

The ruling party CDP reasserted its dominance over the National Assembly in the May legislative elections. Observers generally considered the elections satisfactorily organized and fair. The outcome consolidates the position of the ruling party and president Blaise Compaoré.

Following the elections, a new government headed by Prime minister Tertius Zongo was appointed in June. Several ministers from the previous Government were reappointed, including Finance minister Jean-Baptiste Compaoré, whose portfolio was extended to include Economy. The ambassador to Sweden Celine Yoda was appointed Minister for Promotion of Women.

Burkina is one of the poorest countries in the world, and the fight against poverty is the country's greatest challenge. Since 1995, Burkina has experienced consistent economic growth of on average 6 percent per year. The gains from macroeconomic reforms and large investments in social sectors have resulted in concrete poverty reduction from 54.6 percent in 2000 to 42.6 percent in 2007¹. The 4 million farmers, who cultivate cotton, have benefited from improved living conditions.

The Constitution and legislation provide for the freedom of expression, assembly and demonstration. However, public discontent with the Government has been rising in response to high fuel and grain prices, the ongoing crises in the cotton sector and the general lack of opportunities for the country's youth resulting in social tensions.

The awareness of corruption in Burkina has increased during recent years. Legislation provides a basis to fight corruption, but – like in many other African countries – is not sufficiently enforced. SDC has focused its dialogue with the Government in 2007 on good governance with a particular focus on the fight against corruption. The attention to corruption in the donors' high-level dialogue with the Government continues.

The respect for human rights is still insufficient in Burkina. Impunity for human rights violations, as well as violence and discrimination against women and children, remain a problem. Systematic weaknesses in the justice system, including corrupt practices, negatively affect the respect

¹ Bilan de mise en oeuvre de PAP/CSLP pour l'année 2007, Ministry of Economy and Finance, March 2008

for human rights. The impunity enjoyed in military and security ranks is regularly denounced by human rights and civil society organisations.

The UNAIDS epidemic update on HIV/AIDS in Burkina refers back to 2005 figures, quoting a national prevalence of 2%. HIV/AIDS is one of top priorities on the national development agenda.

The preliminary results of the General Census of the population, carried out in December 2006, were published in April, 2007. They suggest a population growth of 2.9 percent, which is higher than previous estimates.

To attain MDG by 2015 represents a major challenge for Burkina Faso. The Government has taken steps to develop a strategy to accelerate the advancement of these goals.

Efforts to concentrate the cooperation portfolio have continued during the year. Many initiatives have been taken to increase harmonization and coordination among donors.

Sweden now has two delegated partnerships with the Netherlands.

The disbursement of general budget support was carried out in early July 2007 following a positive assessment of the general poverty reduction efforts, as well as positive IMF review conclusions on macroeconomic stability.

Burkina still has no statistical system able to provide, regularly and timely, reliable data required for the follow-up of its development progress. Therefore, Sida has decided to consider long term support to national statistics in Burkina.

A planned three year support to the Ministry for the Promotion of Human Rights (MPHR) is about to be concluded.

An agreement has been signed to support to the Ministry of Environment in developing and building initial capacities for the implementation of a three year sector wide programme on “decentralised environment and natural resources management”.

The Stockholm-based Swedish Ambassador to Burkina presented her credentials to the president in March 2007. During the year, she paid four visits to the country.

A new IT-platform has been installed linking SDC directly to Sida in Stockholm.

2. Political, Economic and Poverty Development

2.1 Political Development

The ruling party CDP (Congrès pour la Démocratie et le Progrès) reasserted its dominance over the National Assembly in the May legislative elections. CDP won 73 of the 111 seats, up from 57. Voter turnout was modest at 56% of registered voters but poor in relation to voting age population (just above 30%). National and international observers generally considered the elections satisfactorily organized and fair. The outcome consolidates the position of the ruling party and president Blaise Compaoré, re-elected for a third term in 2005 which was followed by a sweeping victory in the first municipal elections in 2006, which gave CDP the control over most of the major municipalities and rural communes.

CDP's political dominance does not necessarily reflect a vast popularity. CDP has obviously used its powers and access to patronage resources to divide or co-opt the opposition parties and during the spring, several opposition leaders threw their support behind Compaoré or defected to the CDP. However, the main reason for the backslide of the opposition was that it proved unable to set aside its differences to mount a co-ordinated campaign. In particular the more radical parties of the "Sankarist" tradition lost a large number of seats. The winner among the opposition was the moderate ADF-RDA (Alliance pour la démocratie et la fédération/Rassemblement démocratique africain) with 14 seats.

Following the elections, a new government was appointed in June. The new Prime minister Tertius Zongo is the former ambassador in Washington. Several ministers from the previous Government were reappointed, including Finance minister Jean-Baptiste Compaoré, whose portfolio was extended to include Economy. The ambassador to Sweden Celine Yoda was appointed Minister for Promotion of Women.

In October, president Blaise Compaoré celebrated the 20th anniversary of his seizure of power in a military coup. This revitalized his opponents, the "Sankarist" followers of the late revolutionary president Thomas Sankara, who was killed in the coup. They used the anniversary to mobilise large numbers of youth and channel discontent with poor economic conditions to the Government. Attendance exceeded expectations and a huge crowd gathered at his graveside and the situation became so unruly that his widow Mariam Sankara was forced to leave the cemetery without giving her speech.

During 2007 there have also been other signs of rising social tensions. In March, a brutal double murder triggered rioting by youths from the

capital's poorest neighbourhoods. Public sector workers have protested over salary arrears, pay and working conditions. Public discontent with the Government of Tertius Zongo has been rising in response to high fuel and grain prices, the ongoing crises in the cotton sector and the general lack of opportunities for the country's youth.

Discontent has been growing in military and police forces, which have held a number of public rallies. In November, the government initially declared the protests illegal but later offered compensation to former soldiers who had retired the last few years, an offer which was rejected. In December, the heavily-armed gendarmerie was called in to break up a rally and several of the leaders were arrested.

In December, rallies were held on the ninth anniversary of the murder of Norbert Zongo, the editor of an independent newspaper, to demand the reopening of the investigation into his death including suspicions regarding the presidential guard. The investigation was closed by a judge in 2006, a decision which appeared to be confirmed, when a court in 2007 rejected an appeal by the Zongo family.

2.2 Domestic security

Burkina Faso (hereinafter referred to as Burkina) has generally been considered as a peaceful country with relative social stability and a low rate of criminality.

Armed clashes in December 2006 between the army and police, which left half a dozen dead, were followed by grievances over living and working conditions revealed tensions within and between the security and defence forces. The reaction from the Government was limited to vague appeals for tolerance and dialogue. In January 2007, there was a minor reshuffle of the officer corps but no sanctions against soldiers involved in the violence. The Defence minister urged commanders to take greater responsibility for ensuring military discipline and combating insubordination but at the same time sought to mollify rank and file by announcing a series of economic concessions including better salaries, food and housing allowances.

The lack of sanctions is seen as a sign of the impunity enjoyed in military and security ranks, regularly denounced by human rights and civil society organisations. The incident is also a symptom of the weak democratic culture in the society in general and in the military ranks in particular.

Incidents of armed attacks in main roads, which raised alarm in 2006, have continued in 2007 and caused concern about the risk of a general deterioration of the security situation.

2.3 External relations

Externally, Burkina remains concerned with the crisis in neighbouring countries and plays an active role to promote peace and stability in the sub region. In March, president Compaoré brokered a political deal in Côte d'Ivoire leading to a peace accord between president Laurent Gbagbo and rebel leader Guillaume Soro. He has also played an important role in negotiating a political agreement in neighbouring Togo.

Conflict resolution, including promotion of democracy as a means to avoid new conflicts, was also the highest priority on the agenda for Burkina's presidency in ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) in 2007, which has been extended for 2008. Burkina was also re-elected to continue to hold the presidency of UEMOA (the West African economic and monetary union) in 2008.

In October, Burkina was elected as a non permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2008–2009. Priority issues include conflict prevention and solution, engagement in peacekeeping operations including through military contributions, anti-terrorism, disarmament and implementation of the Millennium Declaration, in particular the fight against poverty, and reform of the UN system.

2.4 Democracy and Good Governance

Burkina continues to score reasonably well in different ‘Good Governance’ indexes² in comparison with many other African countries and was classified, in Bertelsmann Transformation Index (2006), among countries with “deficiencies in terms of market based democracy”. Joseph Ki-Zerbo, an old statesman and scholar, who died in 2006, once commented that “Burkina Faso is a country of democrats without democracy”.

Following the adoption in 2005, of a national policy on Good Governance and a three-year Plan of Action, the donor community continues to monitor the progress in the context of the PRSP annual review process. It has been noted that there are numerous target measures in the Good Governance sector; therefore, it would be beneficial to re-focus on the objectives in the Plan of Action in order to try to decrease the number of measures.

During the last couple of years very little, if any, positive progress has taken place in the legal sector. However, some optimism can be called for. This is due to, firstly, that the reinforcement plan for the Plan of Action 2007–2009 for reform of the legal sector finally was adopted late last year and secondly that the recommendations made by the internal institutional audit regarding improvements of the court system can be implemented rapidly and almost without any costs involved.

In May, parliamentary elections were held (see above under 2. Political Development). In the future, further improvements should be made in the electoral process.

Burkina hosted the 7th Forum on Good Governance “Reinforcing the State Capacity in Africa” in October 2007 in Ouagadougou. At the Forum, organised by UNDP, 32 African States presented their respective national reports on good governance. The Forum adopted 11 recommendations, in particular concerning political and economic governance, decentralisation and the reinforcement of human capacities. The host for the Forum, president Blaise Compaoré, was in attendance as well as president Paul Kagame of Rwanda and the former president of Mozambique, Joaquim Chissano.

During 2006–2007 Burkina made initial preparations for the NEPAD peer-review, that will touch on four different themes, namely political governance, economic governance and public financing, corporate governance and socio-economic development. The review process will be concluded in 2008.

2.5 Trend in Corruption

The levels of corruption in Burkina are seen as moderate in comparison with other sub-saharan countries. Burkina compares favourably with for example the WAEMU countries when assessing the Worldwide Governance Indicators on government effectiveness, voice, accountability and corruption, Burkina. It is difficult to assess the tendency of corrupt practices and impossible to firmly establish if the levels are in fact increasing

² Among others: Freedom House.org (2006), Bertelsmann's Transformation Index (2006) and WorldAudit.org (2007)

or decreasing. However, an increased awareness of corruption has been noted among the general public. In Transparency International's latest assessment, Burkina ranked 105 out of 189 and 17 out of 52 on the regional country rank in 2007 (with a score of 2.9). Comparing with the scores from 2006 (3.2), the country has dropped 26 places in the overall ranking system (from 79) and 7 places in the regional ranking (from 10) indicating that corruption is today perceived as rampant rather than as a serious challenge.

The above increase, at the perception-level, is largely attributed to the fact that public debate and media coverage of corruption has increased considerably and become more systematic in recent years. The many media articles published in 2007 on corruption in all segments of the Burkinabé society have started to build awareness and change the perception of corruption in Burkina. As the Burkinabé are more informed, they become aware of the importance of the problem.

The Government has taken several important measures to respond to the problem during the last years. In 2006, the country ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption and launched a national anti-corruption policy. The adoption of its action plan has however been delayed. In October 2007, the Government created a new institution for state control *Autorité Supérieure de Contrôle d'Etat* (ASCE). The ASCE integrates one of the two anticorruption institutions created in 2001 (the *Haute Autorité de Coordination de la Lutte contre la Corruption - HACLC*) and vital functions of the *Commission Nationale de Lutte Contre Fraud* and the *General Inspectorate of the State* (IGE). A bill on its establishment, functions and composition was submitted to the National Assembly at the end of 2007 and was adopted unanimously. Unlike the HACLC, the ASCE will be able to refer cases to the legal system and publish annual reports.

Recent progress has been noted in the fight against petty corruption that further confirms the willingness of the newly appointed Government to take action;

- 23 persons, including one soldier and two policemen, were condemned for fraud in national entrance exams for the public service (11 September 2007)
- 200 state vehicles in private use were seized by the authorities (end September 2007)
- A principal was fired after he tried to sell schoolbooks (23 November 2007)

The donor community is engaged in a dialogue, initiated in connection with follow-up of the general budget support that contains corruptions measures in its Performance Assessment Framework, at heads of mission-level directly with the Prime Minister as well at a technical level. Topics of this dialogue include:

- Efforts associated with the adoption of an action plan,
- Implementation of monitoring mechanisms,
- Review of relevant national texts,
- Coherence with relevant international texts.

In addition to the donor community, the diversified civil society in Burkina constitutes an important challenge to the authorities in the fight against corruption. Civil society is increasingly included in the dialogue on the general budget support.

2.6 Human rights

The respect for human rights is still insufficient in Burkina. Impunity for human rights violations, as well as violence and discrimination against women and children, remain a problem. Systematic weaknesses in the justice system, including corrupt practices, negatively affect the respect for human rights.

Regarding violence and discrimination against women; Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), although officially against the law, is practiced widely, especially in rural areas, and usually performed at an early age. Perpetrators are subject to a significant fine and imprisonment of six months to three year, or up to 10 years, if the victim died. During the year, FGM practitioners were arrested in several villages. They remained in jail awaiting trial at the year's end. One case when a young girl died following FGM procedure received a public outcry. According to reliable sources, this was the first known case in two years that was fatal.

Security forces in particular abuse persons with impunity, were frequently subjecting suspects to beatings, threats, and occasionally torture, in order to extract confessions.

In general the Government provides, as stipulated in the constitution and national law, for freedom of assembly. However, during the year, the Cabinet imposed sanctions on workers at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for participating in a demonstration in April to demand higher pay and better living and working conditions and unbiased assignments.

The diversity and freedom of the press is progressing; journalists are, however, sometimes intimidated into practicing self censorship. Thus, libel suits against journalists have been used by political and business figures to pressure journalists, who produce unflattering press coverage of them or their organisations. The burden of proof in libel cases rests on the journalists, contrary to the general rule, where it is the accuser who bears this burden.

Burkina has an acceptable legal framework regarding human rights legislation. But formal law faces major implementation problems, in areas when in contradiction with Burkina's traditional cultural context, and in particular with regard to gender equality. This was concluded in a report following a visit in April 2007 by a United Nations independent expert³ appointed by the Human Rights Council. The independent expert concluded, however, that there is a clear and demonstrable commitment of the Government in addressing human rights challenges.

2.7 Gender

Since 2006, Burkina has been elaborating a national gender policy through a participative and consensual process. Two drafts of the policy document and a diagnostic study were produced in 2007. Awaiting the adoption of this national gender policy, various ministries have commenced integrating the gender concept in their policies. As can be expected, the Ministry for the promotion of women has already got a policy promoting improved social conditions of women. Additionally, the Ministries of human rights, education, health, rural development have taken gender issues into account in their sector policies. Recently, the Ministry of national defence have taken measures to increase the female participation in the national armed forces.

³ Independent expert on the effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, Bernards Mudho

In May 2007, a study entitled “Genre et économie au Burkina” was launched in the SDC office with a presentation by the co-authors Yves Bourdet and Michel Koné. The report was well received by local actors and other donors.

2.8 Economic development

The main objective of Burkina’s economic policy is to strengthen economic growth and reduce poverty. Since 1995, Burkina has experienced consistent economic growth of on average 6 percent per year. The gains from macroeconomic reforms and large investments in social sectors have resulted in concrete poverty reduction from 54.6 percent in 2000 to 42.6 percent in 2007⁴, which is significant compared to other countries in Sub Saharan Africa.

The progress in poverty reduction has taken place within the context of a difficult external economic environment, with rising import prices for petroleum products and an appreciating currency (that is tied to the Euro), which has resulted in ever declining export prices of cotton - the country’s most important cash crop. The Government has been commended by the IMF, and the WB among others for maintaining macroeconomic stability in such a difficult environment.⁵

Burkina has had four consecutive agreements with the IMF, which have been implemented successfully since 1999. Throughout this period, Burkina has generally adhered to the Fund’s program criteria. In 2007, IMF approved a new three-year US\$ 9.2 million arrangement under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) for Burkina, which will support the Government’s economic reform program for 2007–2010. The value of the new program is significantly lower than the previous PRGF, as IMF estimates that the country’s good performance has reduced the need for balance-of-payment support.

Broadening and diversifying exports remains essential for sustained growth and long-term poverty reduction. The country is extremely vulnerable to weather conditions and external terms of trade shocks, more so than its neighbouring countries, as only one single commodity (cotton) is responsible for all movement in export prices.

The decline in cotton production from 718,000 tonnes in 2006/2007 to about 550,000 tonnes in 2007/2008 was both weather-related and due to discontent with the official reference price of cotton for 2007 (20 CFA lower per kg than the previous year)⁶. As a result, real GDP growth for 2007 is now estimated at 4.5 percent,⁷ compared to 6.5 percent according earlier IMF forecasts. The agricultural sector in Burkina therefore remains extremely vulnerable to weather conditions and world market prices.

Continued efforts are made to diversify the economy. In 2007, growth was somewhat more broad-based than in previous years, in particular supported by the telecommunications and transportation sectors. The privatization of the national telephone company ONATEL commenced in 2006 with the release of 51 percent of shares by the Burkinabè Government in favour of Morocco Telecom. At the end of the process, the state will remain a minority shareholder in the firm’s capital with a 23 percent share.

The effects of low exports and increased oil prices could potentially be offset though the expected increase in gold production. The mining in-

⁴ Bilan de mise en oeuvre de PAP/CSLP pour l’année 2007, Ministry of Economy and Finance, March 2008

⁵ Burkina Faso: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Annual Progress Report - Joint Staff Advisory Note May 2007

⁶ Economist Country Report November 1, 2007.

⁷ IMF Executive Board Concludes 2007 Article IV Consultation with Burkina Faso. PIN No. 08/02 January 15, 2008

dustry is booming with two gold sites opened in 2007, and one zinc mining project in progress, as well as a dozen gold projects expected to commence in 2008/2009. According to the IMF, there is significant potential for mining manganese, bauxite, copper, nickel and limestone - a potential yet to be fully explored⁸. However, Sida assesses that the development of the mining sector is unlikely to bring any riches to the poor. Most employment opportunities will benefit imported specialised labour and Government revenue will not significantly benefit.

Burkina is able to maintain a sustainable public debt after having successfully reached HIPC completion point and subsequently also received debt relief through the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative. By end 2007, the debt stock had been reduced by 50 percent compared to 2004 and now stands at around 20 percent of GDP, which is a significant improvement. The debt sustainability outlook has been negatively influenced by the recent decline in cotton exports and increasing oil prices. Yet, IMF estimates the associated risks to be “moderate”, even if the ratio of external debt to exports is elevated, projected at 124.2 percent for 2008.

New efforts to improve the investment climate on behalf of the Government are starting to show results. The WB has identified Burkina as one of the top five countries in Africa in terms of improved business climate. In the “Doing Business 2008,” published by the World Bank in 2007, Burkina had gained several places compared to earlier years and is now ranked 161 of 178 countries worldwide for ease of doing business⁹.

La Maison de l'Entreprise, a program to promote the private sector supported by the WB and other donors, has succeeded in reducing the number of days to start a business to 18 days¹⁰. Emerging entrepreneurs are assisted with all bureaucratic issues in one single location to facilitate business establishment processes.¹¹

Burkina's fiscal policies have been sound according to the IMF. New measures are taken to enlarge the tax base and to reinforce compliance. Yet, revenue generation remained low in 2007; the deficit widened in 2007 (6.8 percent) but is expected to diminish in 2008 (5.4 percent). Ongoing structural reforms include steps to improve revenue performance. Domestic revenue is still low (13.3 percent in 2007) by regional standards¹².

The 4 million farmers, who cultivate cotton, have benefited from improved living conditions. However, it will become increasingly difficult to continue this positive trend as the international prices for cotton are decreasing. The cotton industry experienced a severe and unexpected decline in production in 2007, leading to a reduction in exports and a growth rate lower than expected. Additionally, the high dependency on rainfall makes these farmers vulnerable. The IMF has found that the variation in rainfall could explain up to half of the cyclical variation in output and prices, which makes investments in agriculture less appealing.

The beneficial rainfall conditions in 2005/2006, allowed for abundant harvests and consequently a decrease in food prices in 2007. As a result, inflation fell below the WAEMU convergence criterion of 3 percent¹³.

⁸ IMF. Selected issues December 21, 2007. p. 64

⁹ World Bank Group. Doing Business 2008 Burkina Faso. p. 2

¹⁰ World Bank Group. Doing Business 2008 Burkina Faso. p. 6.

¹¹ <http://www.doingbusiness.org/economyrankings/?direction=Asc&sort=2®ionid=7>

¹² <http://www.imf.org/External/Pubs/FT/scr/2007/fra/cr07153f.pdf>

¹³ UEMOA. Rapport Semestriel D'execution De La Surveillance Multilaterale. Juin 2007. p. 26.

2.9 Poverty development

Burkina is one of the poorest countries in the world and the fight against poverty is the country's greatest challenge. According to UNDP's Human Development Index (HDI) 2007/2008, Burkina is ranked as number 176 of 177 countries. Vulnerability to external shocks (climate and regional crises), poor transport infrastructure and landlocked situation, and prevailing traditional values treating women and girls unfairly aggravate the difficult situation. Development is slow but steady, but the HDI is increasing over the years (from 0,325 in 2000 to 0.370 in 2007¹⁴).

Burkina was an early leader in preparing a Poverty Reduction Strategy (Cadre Stratégique de Lutte contre la Pauvreté, CSLP). The country is already implementing its second CSLP, effective from 2004 and further specified in a three-year program for prioritized action (PAP-CSLP). The current CSLP is a relevant framework for combating poverty. Efforts to reduce poverty bring about concrete improvements in the lives of the poor. The CSLP is linked to a medium term expenditure framework (MTEF) outlining allocations to priority sectors.

The general framework for budget support for the implementation of the CSLP, Cadre général d'organisation des appuis budgétaires en soutien à la mise en oeuvre du cadre stratégique de lutte contre la pauvreté (CGAB-CSLP), signed on January 11, 2005 brings together nine donors who provide budget support, including the European Commission and the World Bank (WB). A joint performance assessment framework (PAF) is approved by all the stakeholders on a yearly basis in conjunction with the annual review of the CSLP. By working within one performance framework with indicators selected from the CSLP, having one coordinated policy dialogue with Government and having significantly improved the predictability of financing, efficiency gains for both the donors and the Government of Burkina have been noted.

SDC contributed to implementing the CGAB-CSLP timetable in 2007, and participated in discussions between Government and IMF about the three-year arrangement under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (FRGF). In addition, SDC during the year actively participated in

- preparatory meetings of the Sector and Thematic Commissions (CST) for the seventh annual CSLP review
- a review of former PFM program (PRGB) and the formulation of the new one (SRFP)
- an evaluation of the PFM system (according to the PEFA methodology) held January-April
- mid-term review of the PFM program held in September

The seventh annual CSLP review was held on April 6, 2007, with acceleration of the achievement of the Millennium development goals (MDG) as its main theme. The review, which falls under the framework of the intensified policy dialogue between the Government and the donors (partenaires techniques et financiers, PTF) presented an excellent opportunity to examine the implementation of public policies to reduce poverty in 2006.

Many prioritized areas were discussed: economic growth, private sector promotion, rural development, social sectors (education, health, water supply, governance, infrastructures and public facilities), in addition to more technical discussions on the functioning of the structure for CSLP

¹⁴ Source: http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/country_fact_sheets/cty_fs_BFA.html

follow-up. Despite some improvements compared to earlier years, certain weaknesses remained such as low appropriation of the process by various actors, the absence of coordination between the CSLP and the budget process, the limited resources of CST, as well as the numerous and sometimes overlapping structures for dialogue.

A revision process has commenced aligning the CGAB-CSLP and the CSLP processes and engaging all existing sectoral dialogue structures in the CSLP follow-up to ensure participation and appropriation by sector ministries. In 2007, two main changes were made in the follow-up framework: firstly the introduction of a midterm CSLP review in September of each year and secondly, the revision of the texts of the institutional follow-up framework.

On an experimental basis, a midterm CSLP review was held jointly with the CGAB-CSLP midterm session in October 2007. This review aimed, on the one hand, to examine the rate of implementation of the PAP-CSLP for 2007 and to work out the PAP-CSLP 2008–2010, and on the other hand, to discuss the proposed new framework for CSLP follow-up.

In accordance with one of the review recommendations, a draft of PAP-CSLP over the period 2008–2010 was elaborated in December 2007. However, it should be noted that the new framework programmed for 2007 had not been implemented and was reprogrammed for 2008. The 2007 experience revealed difficulties related to (i) the very constraining calendar of the review, (ii) the low capacities of public actors concerned, (iii) the absence of statistics on time and (iv) the incoherence of the CSLP reviews schedule and sector reviews schedule.

The CSLP review in October 2007 made it possible to note overall satisfactory results on different levels: (I) the macroeconomic, (II) private sector promotion, (III) rural development, (iv) social sectors, (v) good governance, (VI) infrastructures and (VII) improved indicators. Indeed, the poverty rate had decreased from 46.4% in 2003 to 42.1% in 2007¹⁵, meaning a fall of 4.3 points between 2003 and 2007. The cumulated effects of the economic growth observed in 2003 (8%), 2004 (4.6%) and 2005 (7.1%) and 2006 (6.4%) have contributed to poverty reduction.

Significant results were reached in some sectors, thanks to the reforms recommended within the PAF, e.g.:

- the creation of a new dialogue framework in nutrition in July, 2007;
- adoption of the National policy on land security in rural areas (Politique Nationale de Sécurisation Foncière en Milieu Rural) in September 2007;
- sufficient allocations in the 2008 budget to ensure the maintenance of the food and nutrition security information system (SISAN) and cereal stock management

Remarkable progress in policy and programme formulation has been made by the Government, resulting in strategies and action plans on water management and sanitation, climate change, biodiversity conservation and desertification control, paving the way for the implementation of the Paris agenda.

Burkina still has no statistical system able to provide, regularly and timely, reliable data required for the follow-up of its development progress through the CSLP. These difficulties are essentially linked to:

- the insufficiency of the human, material and financial resources;
- the absence or inefficient use of work coordination mechanisms at the national level;

¹⁵ MEF, mars 2008, Bilan de mise en œuvre du Programme d'Actions Prioritaires du CSLP pour l'année 2007

- the lack of information in some sectors like health and employment;
- weak harmonization of concepts, definitions, methodologies and statistical framework;
- unreliable data in the majority of the sectors;
- important delays in the publication and diffusion of statistical data.

In spite of these difficulties, the country attempts to collect some statistics to facilitate the CSLP follow up process. The preliminary results of the General Census of the population, carried out in December 2006, were published in April, 2007. They suggest that population growth (2.9 percent) is higher than previous estimates, which may have unplanned consequences. The final results expected in 2008 will provide a vital source of relevant information for future development planning.

The General Census of Agriculture (RGA), started in January 2007, is continuing. The annual survey on household living conditions (EA/QUIBB) 2007 was carried out, and the results were published in October 2007.

To attain MDG by 2015 represents a major challenge for Burkina Faso. In accordance with the recommendations of the 2006 CSLP review, the Government has taken steps to develop a strategy to accelerate the advancement of these goals. The civil society contributed to the 2007 review through three presentations of studies that they had undertaken on (i) irrigated crops, (ii) transformation of cereal products (iii) infrastructures and marketing of cereals.

The main suggestions to improve future reviews were to: (i) improve the process for CSLP follow-up; (ii) improve the quality of the analyses; (iii) reinforce the strategies to mobilize domestic resources in order to respect the UEMOA convergence criteria; (iv) continue efforts to improve aid efficiency and absorption capacity of resources; (v) consolidate the decentralization process by reinforcing capacity of local actors and transferring competence and resources to the local communities; (vi) improve the gender approach; (vii) take measures to assist the cotton sector and (viii) adopt the strategy to accelerate the realization of the MDG.

2.10 HIV/AIDS situation

The UNAIDS epidemic update on HIV/AIDS in Burkina refers back to 2005 figures, quoting a national prevalence of 2%. However, the report does imply that national prevalence trends amongst youths 15–24 are declining. This statement is supported by figures from 2003, quoting a decline amongst young pregnant women attending antenatal clinics in urban areas, to a prevalence level of 2% (Présidence du Faso, Démographie & ORC Macro, 2004).

HIV/AIDS is one of top priorities on the national development agenda. In 2000, the AIDS and STI Control Council (CNLS-IST) was created and is chaired by president Compaoré. A new national strategic framework for 2006 -2010 (NSF) was recently approved. NSF focuses on access to treatment, including anti-retroviral (ARV), the epidemic's impact on children, and the need to improve care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) and orphans and vulnerable children (OVC).

CNLS-IST is decentralized with 45 multisectoral provincial AIDS committees and there are plans to establish 13 regional AIDS committees in 13 newly created administrative regions. NSF pays increased attention to decentralised implementation and capacity building.

3. Swedish Development Cooperation – Overall Assessment of the Country Programme

The country allocation for Burkina 2007 was 135 MSEK. Disbursements during the year amounted to 132.1 MSEK. In addition, funds totalling 15.5 MSEK were made available from budget lines outside the country allocation (7.0 for research co-operation and 8.5 MSEK for support to non-governmental organizations). Thus, the total amount of assistance made available to Burkina Faso 2007 was 147.6 MSEK.

Generally speaking, 2007 was a positive year for Swedish development cooperation in Burkina.

In the area of natural resources, important planning work was carried out in collaboration with relevant Government structures for support to the national programme for drinking water supply and sanitation. Sida has played a vital role to promote a sector-wide approach to decentralized environment and forest management programming.

As specified in the Country Plan for 2007, SDC has focused on possibilities to concentrate and harmonize the portfolio, especially in the area of good governance, democracy and human rights. Sweden now has two delegated partnerships with the Netherlands (health and basic education).

The difficulties in efficiently implementing the Research cooperation program unfortunately persist. Furthermore, the fact that future Swedish aid to Burkina Faso remained unpredictable during the beginning of the year and that Sida was bound by a government restriction¹⁶ created difficulties for the office to play a vital role in different coordination fora discussing long term commitments and alignment in the aftermath of the Paris declaration.

In Burkina, all contributions are, directly or indirectly, linked to poverty reduction. Results are monitored in collaboration and harmonization with other development partners. All SDC program staff participated actively in the Poverty Reduction Strategy review in April as well as with the formulation of the joint donor appreciation of strategy implementation and public financial management. The Swedish priorities were highlighted on numerous occasions.

In order to reinforce the perspective of the poor in the country program, SDC has during the year undertaken several field trips and tried to strengthen its communication network with civil society organisations in order to benefit from their experience working directly with poor women and men.

¹⁶ No new specific agreements with validity beyond 31 December could be entered into

SDC has focused its dialogue with the Government on good governance with a particular focus on the fight against corruption.

During the year, the National Coordinator (in the Ministry of Economy and Finance) for the follow-up of the Paris Declaration has actively worked with the donor group. A National Action Plan has been elaborated and the donors' commitments to this plan have been formulated in a letter of intention signed by all major donors.

The UN chairs quarterly meetings of the bilateral and multilateral donors. The WB, the IMF, the EC and the African Development are important partners of Sida, especially in the area of general budget support.

The coordination of development cooperation within the EU-group (enlarged to include Switzerland and Canada) has continued discussions on possible joint analyses and strategies in the future.

The brief Country Analysis made by a joint EU/Government committee in September 2006 was updated in May 2007 with active SDC participation.

4. Specific Country Programme Overview of the Swedish Development Cooperation

4.1 Propoor, sustainable growth

Budget support

The disbursement of general budget support was approved in June and carried out in early July 2007 following a positive assessment of the general poverty reduction efforts as well as positive IMF review conclusions on macroeconomic stability in 2006 and the first quarter of 2007. The amount disbursed was 60 MSEK in line with the Budget Support Agreement between Sweden and Burkina for the years 2007–2008.

The new agreement for general budget support, signed on March 1, 2007, represents an increase of 30% compared to the previous two years and includes a second tranche to support a new strategy to reinforce public financial management (SRFP). In 2007, the two tranches were jointly disbursed, thereby reducing transaction costs on both ends.

Indicators and measures from the Performance Assessment Framework for 2007–2009, concerning procurement, fiscal revenue, budget execution and audits were in the latter part of 2007 selected as triggers for the second tranche in 2008. SDC prepared an appendix to the agreement formally establishing these disbursement conditions. Should the indicators of the second tranche not be fulfilled concurrently with the main tranche in 2008, the disbursements could be made separately.

The SRFP strives to consolidate economic governance by establishing healthy PFM institutions to allow for efficient financing of the programs and action plans of the CSLP. The new strategy has a greater scope and is more ambitious than the previous program for strengthening budget management. The SRFP was launched in April 2007 in conjunction with the annual CSLP review. Denmark has taken on the role as lead donor for the SRFP. The National Program Officer for PFM at SDC is actively following the SRFP.

For the general budget support group (CGAB-CSLP), the Netherlands, followed by France assumed the role as lead donor in 2007. The French team, made up of three staff members, initiated a weekly electronic newsletter, which eased communication within the group that is expanding rapidly: several CGAB-CSLP members are adding staff and additional donors have joined the group as observers¹⁷.

¹⁷ Saudi Arabia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, United Nations, Egypt, United States, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg and Morocco have been invited to join CGAB-CSLP as observers.

The expansion of the group is positive; however, with the increased size, communication and meetings proved somewhat difficult during the year. As a result, the group established new and more formal ways of functioning during 2007. The CGAB-CSLP secretariat now meets every two weeks.

In June 2007, a proposal by SDC to use a group address for email communication to CGAB-CSLP members received favourable support. SDC assisted with the setting up of an email address for CGAB-CSLP. The group address automatically transfers messages to the current CGAB-CSLP members thereby avoiding the use of obsolete mailing lists. An electronic email archive has been created which can serve as the historical memory of the group.

The efforts to improve the Joint Financing Agreement (JFA) on general budget support (Cadre Général d'organisation des Appuis budgétaires en soutien au CSLP, CGAB), signed on January 2005, have yet to be finalised. Some reforms have been pursued, such as including observers in the CGAB-CSLP sessions, but the bulk of reforms will be implemented in 2008.

One of the initial reforms, to engage the Minister of Economic Development as co-president of CGAB-CSLP, had little impact, as Prime Minister Zongo in May 2007 merged the two ministries into the Ministry of Economy and Finance under Jean Baptiste Compaoré, the former Minister of Finance and Budget. This merger, however, facilitates the follow up of the general budget support and the coordination between the CSLP and budget procedures.

Statistics

Conscious of the fact that a sustainable national statistical system could facilitate decision-making by making available relevant and reliable statistical information, Sida has decided to consider long-term support to Burkina's public statistical system (Schéma Directeur de Statistique). In May 2007, an exploratory mission concluded that the situation for an institutional cooperation project between the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD) and Statistics Sweden (SCB) was favourable. A second mission which took place October–November 2007 continued the work to draft a proposal for an three year institutional cooperation project to be funded by Sida. The proposal is two-pronged. On one hand, it covers support to various statistical domains: economic statistics (in particular the establishment of a Business Register), social statistics (in particular household surveys), environment statistics, agricultural statistics, and external trade statistics. On the other hand, it covers support to capacity building; support to management and IT, training in statistical methodology and statistical software, and English language training.

The project will also cover production and use of statistics in other ministries, particularly in areas of fundamental interest to the implementation of the CSLP and the monitoring of the achievement of MDG. The objectives and goals set out in the newly revised National Statistics Plan (Schema Directeur de la Statistique 2004–2009) provide the backbone for the work expected to commence in 2008.

HIV/AIDS

Sida has been providing a grant to Initiative Privée et Communautaire de Lutte contre le VIH/Sida au Burkina Faso (IPC) through the International HIV/AIDS Alliance (IHAA) since 2006 to implement a two-year program called "The expansion of integrated community responses to HIV/AIDS in the provinces of Kadiogo, Bam and Boulgou in Burkina Faso".

A mid-term review was carried out in March 2007. The review team noted that the project is highly relevant and in line with the country's National Framework for combating HIV/AIDS, meeting the needs of the target groups. The review team also concluded that the capacity of the partner organisations had been strengthened and proposed that IPC build up a presence at provincial level to improve quality and to enhance program effectiveness. An action plan has been adopted in order to monitor the actions defined by the Alliance and IPC as a result of the review.

The development of a new country strategy for Burkina will only start in 2009. It is not yet clear what kind of HIV/AIDS support Sida will decide upon for the future. SDC therefore has advised IPC that the current support will be phased out. A phasing out programme for a one year, especially focusing on capacity building among civil society organisations, was therefore finalised and the funds were disbursed by end of 2007.

4.2 Democratic governance and social development

Democratic governance

The overall aim set out in the Country Strategy is to help promote democratic governance by paying special attention to issues relating to access by women and girls to power, security and opportunity. With the previous years' concentration of the portfolio to fewer projects and programs with larger volumes, the overall aim is considered to have been achieved.

The programs currently in place focus on promoting democratic governance on a more long term basis than previously. To achieve positive changes within the democratic governance sector requires, apart from particular focus, a substantial period of time. The ongoing cooperation is considered to meet these requirements and builds on support to the following organisations:

- the National Democratic Institute (NDI),
- Centre pour la Gouvernance Démocratique (CGD)
- Diakonia.

NDI has undertaken many training activities for the capacity building of women and the promotion of their involvement in politics and in decision making processes within political parties. Notably, following last year's legislative elections, there are now 15% women members of parliament compared to 11,7% in 2003.

CGD is a think-tank centre which pursues policy-oriented research on democratisation and runs education programmes for political parties, including special projects aimed at promoting women in politics. Its activities are considered to be fully in line with the strategy in force. A continued three year support is envisaged.

Indirect cooperation with the main civil society organisations in the domain of human rights and democracy continues through financial support to the work of Diakonia.

A planned three year support to the Ministry for the Promotion of Human Rights (MPHR) is about to be concluded. This support will be given in cooperation with Denmark and the Netherlands and is expected to contribute to capacity building for MPHR as well as to facilitate the raising of different dialogue issues concerning respect for, protection and observance of human rights. Sweden is the lead donor for human rights since 1 July 2007.

A dialogue is underway concerning ways of supporting the Ombudsman institution (Le Médiateur du Faso).

SDC has participated actively in donor groups and thematic retreats relating to elections

and democratic development as well as in the donor group on good governance. In the framework of this group, an initiative was launched to elaborate key target results to propose to the Government. The aim was to assist the Government in focusing on key areas in order to obtain concrete results in the domain of Good Governance.

In Burkina, a number of donors (including Sweden) contribute to a Gender Basket Fund, managed by UNFPA. Other donors are Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Switzerland, UEMOA and UNDP. The objective of the fund is to mainstream gender in prioritized development sectors, improve coordination and dialogue with regards to gender related poverty issues, and harmonize interventions of donors. Above all, the Fund seeks to mobilise financial resources for gender equality in general and for support to small-scale activities in particular.

In 2007, a decision was taken by SDC to support the Fund during a three year period 2007–2009. The first contribution of 500,000 SEK was disbursed in December 2007.

Social development

Basic Education

The finalisation of the audit of the Bureau des Projets Education (BPE) and repayment of funds has been a prerequisite for new support to the National Plan for the Development of Basic Education (PDDEB) since 2005. In June 2007, the final audit report from the auditors was handed over to the donors, and the Government subsequently reimbursed the funds not spent according to the agreements with the donors.

A new agreement on Swedish support to PDDEB has been signed for 2007 – 2008 amounting to 15 MSEK for 2007 and 25 MSEK for 2008.

Late 2006 Sida entered into an agreement with Fonds pour l'Alphabétisation et l'Éducation Non Formelle (FONAENF) for 2006–2008 amounting to 8 MSEK per year totalling 24 MSEK.

An arrangement on delegated partnership with the Netherlands with Sweden as a silent partner in the education sector has also been signed including the contributions to PDDEB and FONAENF.

The preparation of the second phase of the PDDEB 2008–2010 was concluded in 2007 and has taken in account the educational reform, the need for a new curriculum and the decentralisation process. Access to education and quality remain key challenges.

During the semi-annual meetings, Mission Conjointe de Suivi (MCS), it has been noted that there has been progress in access to basic education, in quality and management, however leaving great challenges still to be met. The admission rate has risen significantly from 78,3% in 2006/07 to 84,7% in 2007/08. Girls admission rate is now 79% compared to 72,4% in 2006/07¹⁸. About 91 000 persons were declared literate during the 2007 literacy campaign whereof 57% were women.

The Government has decided on a reform of the education system, defining primary education as education for children between 7 and 16 years of age. The reform also emphasises the importance of pre-primary school for children 4 – 6 years. The Government has started to implement a system without school fees or fees for books.

¹⁸ Aide Memoire from Mission Conjointe de Suivi April 2008.

Health

The National Health Sector Development Plan (PNDS) has been up-dated and a new document "PNDS Tranche 2006–2010" was adopted by Government and donors in March 2007 after an intensive participative process. It responds well to the international commitments made by the Government as well as the donor community (Abuja, Paris), and defines strategies to bring health MDGs within reach within the overall strengthening of health systems. High priority will be given to planning, financing and monitoring of "Rapid Result Intervention" packages linked to MDG 4 (child mortality), MDG 5 (maternal mortality) and MDG 6 (malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS).

Sida's ongoing support to the National Health Sector Development Plan through Programme D'Appui au Développement Sanitaire 2005–2008 (PADS) is continuing through a delegated partnership with the Netherlands, with Sweden as silent partner. A Mid-Term-Review of PADS was conducted in 2007. Based on agreed recommendations and conclusions of this review, PADS a new programme document has been formulated for an extension phase 2008–2012. The document was adopted in a steering committee meeting (Comité Directeur PADS) in December 2007.

The Mid-Term-Review revealed many positive results e.g. that PADS objectives are in line with those of the PNDS, the budget is coherent, and management scores are excellent at all levels. However, major challenges remain; e.g. the development of a performance based management system and technical audits, better clarification of the different roles of PADS and PNDS, questions of durability and sustainability of funding at medium term and its articulation and integration into the national budget.

The performance of the health sector slowly shows gradual improvement on some key indicators and stagnation on others, with an overall progress too slow to achieve MDGs at the present pace. For example, the vaccination coverage for preventable child diseases has increased to well above 85% and measles is becoming a rare disease. The percentage of women delivering with qualified assistance has, however, decreased to 38% in 2006 (43% 2005), and contraceptive prevalence has remained at 22%. Utilization rate of curative care is still very low, 0.35 (0.34 2005). Stagnation in the malnutrition rate and lack of progress in malaria prevention are areas of major concern.

During the midterm review, the Netherlands and Sweden concluded that PADS is for the moment the most appropriate funding mechanism for the PNDS. In 2007, both the PNDS and PADS redefined their role with a stronger focus on accelerated action to achieve the health MDG. There are clear signs of improved government commitment and funding. The funding base for PADS needs further strengthening in order to join the Ministry of Health in its efforts to scale up interventions related to MDG.

Higher education and research

The current general and specific agreement between SAREC and CNRST concerns a research cooperation programme with three components: Research training; ICT and the establishment of National Research Fund.

Concerning the Research training component, eight students had successfully defended their thesis as of December 2007. The remaining 13 are expected to complete their training during 2008 or 2009. An audit mission carried out in September 2007 points out an unjustified amount

of SEK 294 256 SEK. Furthermore, SEK 200 175 were classified as justified but doubtful (indicating that the supporting documents were incomplete or that the purpose of the expenditure was doubtful). This audit conclusion, together with the persistent delays in submitting activity and financial reports, prompted Sida to suspend the disbursement of research funds to the CNRST and the continued negotiation of three separate agreements, as suggested by CNRST. However, in order not to jeopardize ongoing scientific experiments, funds were delegated to the SDC in order to cater for the students' fieldwork expenses in Burkina. It is expected that Sida will resume direct disbursements to its cooperating partner(s) in Burkina, once the sums stated above have been reimbursed to Sweden.

The ICT component has made very little progress during 2007 among other things due to Sida's decision to restrict disbursement of funds to the CNRST, until issues related to the audit report were resolved.

As regards the Local Research Fund component, a consultant was recruited in June to look into alternative institutional arrangements for the establishment of a National Research Fund. It is expected that, based on his investigations, a decision will be taken to effectively establish the Fund during 2008.

Despite the obstacles encountered so far, the Sida support has shown that it is possible (although demanding) to lay the foundations for research and postgraduate studies even at very weak institutions.

4.3. Sustainable development of natural resources

Support to the integrated water management action plan (PAGIRE)

Compared to previous years, the implementation rate has significantly improved. The human resources of the Permanent Secretariat were partly reinforced with the recruitment of 2 junior staff. The Nakambe river basin agency was installed; this is the first such agency in the country. New laws and regulations concerning water resources management were adopted and their enforcement has started. More than 15 contracts were signed to allow for the implementation of studies related to human resources strengthening, groundwater level follow-up, development of management plans for local water committees (CLE) and building up the data base of the National Water Information System. 2008 is expected to be more intensive in terms of activities and very fruitful in terms of achievements.

The national programme for drinking water supply and sanitation (PN-AEPA)

Sida has actively promoted coordinated efforts towards increased aid efficiency in the sector, through initiation of the first joint review of progress under PN-AEPA and taking the lead in the establishment of its first joint donor financing mechanism. Sida provided resources that enabled an analysis and prioritisation of activities required to re-enforce the stakeholders' capacities to successfully implement PN-AEPA. This resulted in the signature of an agreement during the last quarter of 2007 to co-finance with GTZ and Danida such "Road Map" activities during 2007 and 2008. Parallel to this, Sida completed the Initial Assessment of a future larger scale support to PN-AEPA, with a positive conclusion reached to proceed with an in-depth preparation of the planned support.

The PN-AEPA report for 2007 shows good progress in key areas like rural water supply, which gives hope that the MDGs in this area may actually be achieved in Burkina. For example, the construction of small piped water supply systems reached 145% of the target for 2007, and the drilling and rehabilitation of boreholes reached 80%.

The decentralized environment and forest management programme

Sida engaged in an intensive dialogue with, and provided resources for, the Ministry of Environment to promote a sector-wide approach to programming. As a result, the Ministry successfully improved its internal and external coordination, and formulated priority steps and actions to be taken to establish such a sector-wide approach. One theme that was given particular attention was the public financing management capacity of the Environment sector, whereby Sida assisted in formulating concrete plans for capacity enhancement.

An agreement was consequently signed in December 2007 to support the Ministry of Environment for the years 2007 – 2009 in developing and building initial capacities for the implementation of a three year sector wide programme on “decentralised environment and natural resources management”. This programme will guide the implementation of a ten year sector wide programme of the Ministry of Environment (Programme Décennal d’Action), which is also part of a broader Programme for the development of the productive rural sector (Programme du Secteur de Développement Rural productif –PROSDERP).

5. Office and administrative issues

The Stockholm-based Swedish Ambassador to Burkina presented her credentials to the president in March 2007. During the year, she paid four visits to the country.

5.1 Current staffing and perspectives

During 2007, Swedish and other professional staff at SDC consisted of:

- The Counsellor
- The Economist
- The Senior Programme Officer/Social sectors
- The Programme Officer/Democratic governance
- The Administrator
- An NPO working with natural resources and scientific research
- An NPO, expert in Public Finance Management, was recruited in August 2007

Administrative, and other locally recruited staff members comprise: an administrative assistant, a secretary, a receptionist/secretary, two drivers and a cleaner.

The Economist will leave in April and the successor starts her assignment in June 2008. Recruitment procedures to replace the senior Programme Officer/Democratic governance, who leaves in June, the Administrator, who leaves in August and to recruit a regional Programme Officer/natural resources are ongoing. The senior Programme Officer/Social sectors, leaves his assignment in August and will not be replaced.

5.2 Changes during the year and major events

One driver was killed in an accident in February 2007 and was replaced after one month. The former secretary finished her assignment in August 2007 and was immediately replaced. A cleaner was hired in June 2007 (to replace the services of a cleaning firm).

In November/December a team from Sida's IT-division visited the SDC in order to install new IT-equipment and servers. This means that computers at SDC are now directly connected to Stockholm and the personnel can work in the e-mail Notes environment. Access to PLUS and LIS is also possible. The new IT-platform has greatly facilitated the work at SDC.

During 2007 emergency and security plans were elaborated. A decision has been taken regarding “Regulation for Organisation, Delegation of work, and Decision-Making procedures” (Arbetsordning). The working conditions for locally employed personnel have been discussed and agreed with the burkinabè Work Inspection Authority.

A new vehicle (Toyota Prado) was procured locally in July 2007. All houses for sent out staff are maintained on a regular basis and security doors have been installed. This has resulted in somewhat higher costs than budgeted. Also, the costs for electricity and water have risen above the budgeted amounts.

In the beginning of the year, SDC engaged an ergonomist in order to inform all personnel on ergonomic matters. Her suggestions for improvements in the working environment have been taken into consideration.

During 2007, competence development has included:

- regional meetings and NPO-training in Sweden
- controller training in Sweden for two staff members
- management training in Kenya for head of office
- language training in English for the new NPO

5.3 Work on quality assurance

A quality assurance team visited SDC in early November 2007. The team investigated the requirements for partial delegation; the conclusion in the report is that most elements for a partial delegation are in place. However, SDC has to continue working on remaining tasks in order to:

- sign a contract with a local auditor
- elaborate a local anti-corruption strategy
- establish a local project committee
- include controller function with QA-routines in the Office Manual
- ensure PLUS/LIS authorisation for all Programme Officers
- ensure that archive is maintained in accordance with agreed standards
- ensure PO project files are complete

Annex 1:

Current Planning Overview

Country report - Burkina Faso

Outcome and forecast in TSEK

Delimitation:

Status: I, P, A and C

Region/Country: Burkina Faso

Other: (agr end > 200700 or Outcome <> 0)

Responsible Unit	(All)					
			Data			
Allocation Frame	Allocation Account	Main Sector	Outcome 2007	Outcome 2008	FC 2008	FC 2009
Inside country allocation	155001 Burkina Faso	01 Health	24 997	0	20 003	5 000
		02 Education	22 878	0	33 000	0
		04 HR & Democratic governance	4 988	0	15 650	19 400
		09 Natural resources&environm.	13 423	-3	20 164	25 223
		10 Budget support poverty red.	60 000	0	70 000	0
		11 Other	5 784	0	300	0
		(blank)	0	0	0	20 000
	155001 Burkina Faso Total		132 070	-3	159 117	69 623
Inside country allocation Total			132 070	-3	159 117	69 623
Outside country allocation	15551 Research	03 Research	7 013	138	18 400	20 705
	15551 Research Total		7 013	138	18 400	20 705
	15561 Non-governmental organisations	01 Health	615	182	548	78
		02 Education	816	245	758	262
		04 HR & Democratic governance	5 223	547	1 633	149
		05 Conflict, peace & security	217	1	6	5
		07 Infrastructure	8	0	0	0
		08 Trade, business & fin. syst	118	38	114	14
		09 Natural resources&environm.	545	185	547	20
		11 Other	922	55	163	22
	15561 Non-governmental organisations Total		8 463	1 254	3 769	550
	15571 Humanitarian assistance	06 Humanitarian assistance	0	0	0	0
		15571 Humanitarian assistance Total		0	0	0	0
	Outside country allocation Total			15 476	1 392	22 169	21 255
Grand Total			147 546	1 389	181 286	90 878

Annex 2:

World Bank Fact Sheet

Burkina Faso Data Profile			
	2000	2005	2006
People			
Population, total	11.3 million	13.2 million	13.6 million
Population growth (annual %)	2.9	3.1	2.7
Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line (% of population)	..	..	..
Life expectancy at birth, total (years)	46.8	48.5	..
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)	..	5.9	..
Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births)	100.0	96.0	..
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000)	196.0	191.0	..
Births attended by skilled health staff (% of total)	..	..	..
Malnutrition prevalence, weight for age (% of children under 5)	..	..	..
Immunization, measles (% of children ages 12-23 months)	59.0	84.0	..
Prevalence of HIV, total (% of population ages 15-49)	..	2.0	..
Primary completion rate, total (% of relevant age group)	25.2	30.9	..
School enrollment, primary (% gross)	44.3	57.7	..
School enrollment, secondary (% gross)	10.9	14.0	..
School enrollment, tertiary (% gross)	..	2.4	..
Ratio of girls to boys in primary and secondary education (%)	69.7	78.0	..
Literacy rate, adult total (% of people ages 15 and above)	..	23.6	..
Environment			
Surface area (sq. km)	274.0 thousand	274.0 thousand	274.0 thousand
Forest area (sq. km)	69,140.0	67,940.0	..
Agricultural land (% of land area)	36.9	..	..
CO2 emissions (metric tons per capita)	0.1	..	..
Improved water source (% of population with access)	54.0	..	..
Improved sanitation facilities, urban (% of urban population with access)	39.0	..	..
Economy			
GNI, Atlas method (current US\$)	2.8 billion	5.6 billion	6.3 billion
GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$)	250.0	430.0	460.0
GDP (current US\$)	2.6 billion	5.7 billion	6.2 billion
GDP growth (annual %)	1.6	7.1	5.6
Inflation, GDP deflator (annual %)	5.3	3.3	2.2
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP)	33.9	..	..
Industry, value added (% of GDP)	16.2	..	..
Services, etc., value added (% of GDP)	49.9	..	..
Exports of goods and services (% of GDP)	9.1	..	..
Imports of goods and services (% of GDP)	25.3	..	..
Gross capital formation (% of GDP)	22.7	..	..
Revenue, excluding grants (% of GDP)	..	12.0	..
Cash surplus/deficit (% of GDP)	..	-3.7	..

States and markets			
Time required to start a business (days)	..	45.0	34.0
Military expenditure (% of GDP)	1.4	1.3	..
Fixed line and mobile phone subscribers (per 1,000 people)	6.9	50.6	..
Internet users (per 1,000 people)	0.8	4.9	..
Roads, paved (% of total roads)	..	..	..
High-technology exports (% of manufactured exports)	3.1	..	..
Global links			
Merchandise trade (% of GDP)	31.5	28.6	30.3
Net barter terms of trade (2000 = 100)	100.0	81.3	..
Foreign direct investment, net inflows (BoP, current US\$)	23.2 million	19.5 million	..
Long-term debt (DOD, current US\$)	1.2 billion	1.9 billion	..
Present value of debt (% of GNI)	..	22.5	..
Total debt service (% of exports of goods, services and income)	14.9	..	..
Official development assistance and official aid (current US\$)	334.9 million	659.6 million	..
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (US\$)	67.0 million	50.0 million	50.0 million
Source: World Development Indicators database, April 2007			

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



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