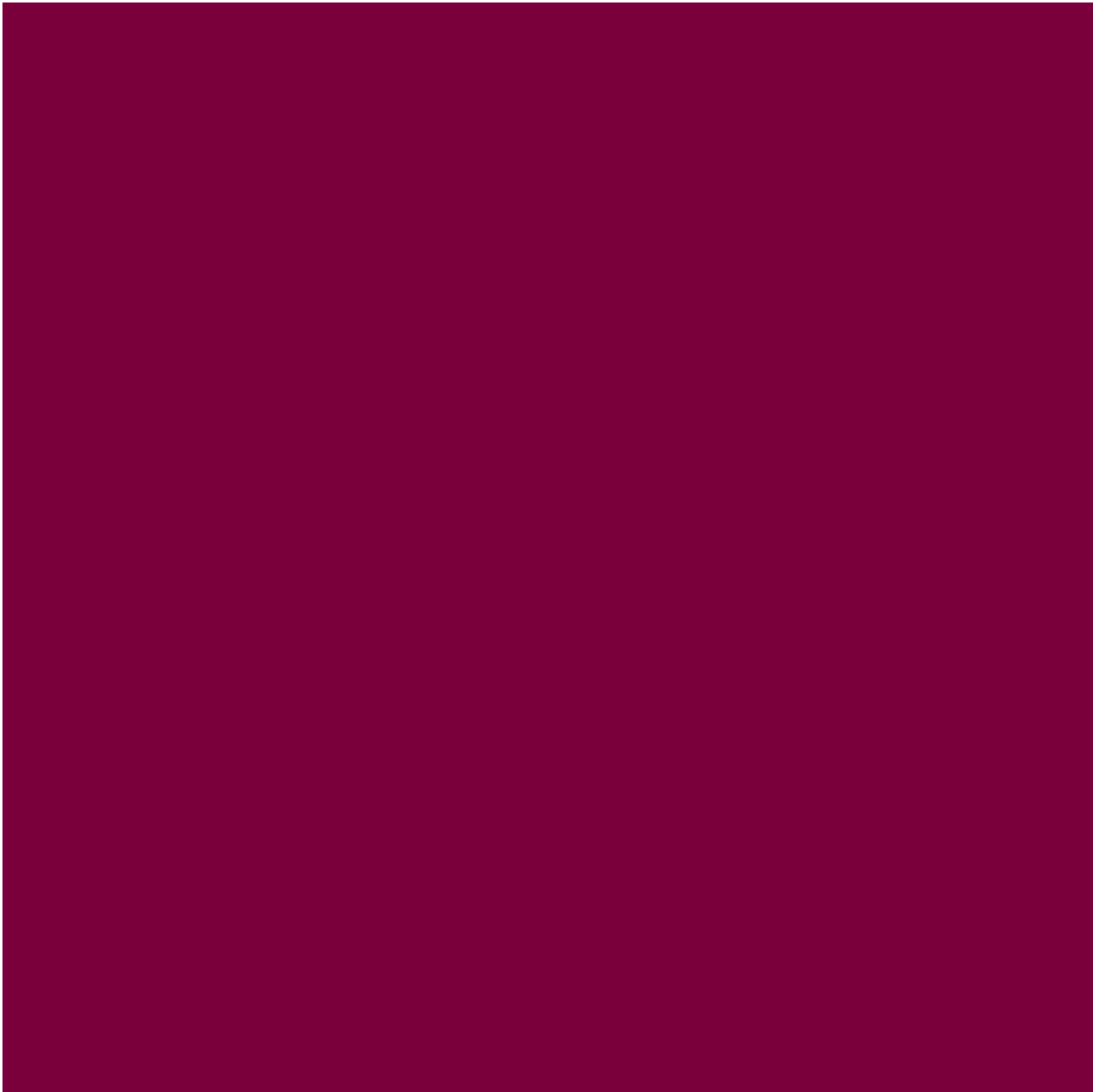


Burkina Faso



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1. Summary

In April 2006, Burkina Faso held its first country-wide municipal elections. Congress for Democracy and Progress (CDP) won a sweeping victory reinforcing the power of the recently re-elected President Blaise Compaoré. These elections were particularly important in the context of the current decentralization process. Legislative elections will take place in May 2007. President Compaoré has played an active role to promote peace and stability in the sub region.

Before Christmas, clashes broke out between the military and the police in Ouagadougou – a symptom of the weak state of democracy in Burkina.

A governance profile of the country analysing the current situation in terms of democracy, human rights, security, economic and social development has been prepared by the EU delegation. The country's human rights record remains poor and systemic weaknesses in the justice system persist.

A national population Census was carried out in 2006.

Burkina Faso, with its GDP per capita of approximately US\$ 300 and thus one of the very poorest countries in Africa, is already implementing its second Poverty Reduction Strategy.

The impact of HIV/AIDS in Burkina is increasingly apparent even if the current prevalence is relatively low (2%). A National Strategic Framework has been developed for the period 2006–2010.

In May, Burkina Faso and Sweden carried out a first formal review of Swedish Development Cooperation during the period 2004–2006.

Throughout the year, several initiatives have been taken to increase harmonization among donors. A National Coordinator has been appointed in the Ministry of Finance and Budget for the follow-up of the Paris Agenda.

A new agreement for general budget support was prepared during 2006 amounting to 130 MSEK for the period 2007–2008.

Disbursements from the country allocation amounted to 98.4 MSEK during the year. In addition, funds totalling 12.5 MSEK were made available for research co-operation and support to non-governmental organizations. Thus, *the total amount of assistance made available to Burkina Faso 2006 was close to 111 MSEK.*

2. Political, economic and poverty development

Political development

In April 2006, Burkina Faso held its first country-wide municipal elections. 73 political parties competed for seats in 351 municipalities. Voter turnout was modest (49.1 percent). International and national electoral observers generally considered the elections satisfactorily organized and fair; however, the ruling party had a major advantage in terms of financial resources.

Congress for Democracy and Progress (CDP) won a sweeping victory with over 60 percent of the votes, 72 percent of the seats and control of 41 of 49 municipality councils. This victory reinforced the power of the recently (November 2005) re-elected President Blaise Compaoré, who won around 80 percent of the votes.

These elections were particularly important in the context of the current decentralization process. The Government has adopted a *Strategy for Decentralization Implementation in Burkina Faso* following a law passed in 2005 providing for the decentralization of political decisions and administration to regional and local levels. Different sectors are now planning for the transfer of financial resources and services to decentralized institutional structures. The lack of human resources at the local level is, however, a major challenge.

The appointment of new members to the electoral authority, Commission électorale nationale indépendante (CENI), in September stirred political controversy over behind-the-scenes consultations and the selection of opposition party members as well as the single human rights representative in the commission. Since 2001 this seat has been held by a leading figure in a human rights group operating in several francophone African countries, GERDDES, Moussa Michel Tapsoba. He was also the president of CENI. In the end, competing candidates boycotted the vote and Tapsoba was re-elected and confirmed as president.

Legislative elections will take place in May 2007. It is generally expected that CDP will win another sweeping victory, as the weak and divided opposition is not in a position to present a serious challenge. Amendments of the electoral code to modify proportional representation and make it harder for small parties to win seats will also favour a restoration of CDP's dominance in the National Assembly. In the 2002 elections it was drastically reduced from 100 to 57 seats (of a total of 111). CDP has, however, counted on a comfortable support, according to critics sometimes by employing dubious methods to destabilize the

opposition, encourage defections to CDP and secure loyalty in its own ranks.

New allegations related to the assassination in 1998 of Norbert Zongo, the director of the weekly *L'Indépendant*, and three of his companions, failed to prompt a reopening of the case. The murder spawned two years of strikes and street demonstrations and forced the government to set up an independent commission of inquiry (CEI). The case led to deterioration in Burkina Faso's relations with its international partners and it was only after three years in political quarantine that president Compaoré could pay an official visit to Paris in 2001.

After more than eight years of investigations, a judge decided in July 2006 to drop all charges against Marcel Kafando, an ex-presidential guard and one of the main suspects. The judge's decision was criticized by many human rights groups, civil society organisations and opposition parties, which denounced "an outrageous denial of justice", as well as by representatives of the EU and the US in Burkina Faso. The decision appeared to be confirmed when a court in August rejected an appeal by the Zongo family.

In October, the head of *Reporters sans frontières* in Paris, Robert Ménard, who was a leading and the only non burkinabè member of CEI, said at a press conference in Ouagadougou that CEI had been subject to considerable political pressure and that its final report had been watered down.

Before Christmas, clashes broke out between the military and the police in Ouagadougou during two days. The central part of the city came under machine gun and rocket fire, which, according to official sources, left five dead (three soldiers and two policemen) and several hundred prisoners unaccounted for after soldiers broke into the main prison. The fighting was initially written off as retaliation for the police killing an army soldier. Military leaders later said the clashes were also ignited by claims for better living and working conditions.

The incident is a symptom of the weak state of democracy in Burkina Faso, in particular the almost inexistent democratic culture in the military and security forces. The fact that the regime failed to resolve the crisis promptly and to sanction the instigators, is seen as yet another sign of impunity enjoyed in military and security ranks and regularly denounced by the human rights movement and civil society.

Conflict issues

Burkina Faso has remained concerned with conflicts in the sub region, in particular the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire owing to that country's heavy influence on domestic political and economic life and the insecurity confronting the burkinabè living there (approximately 3 million). The crisis has had a considerable impact on the economic and monetary union UEMOA, where Côte d'Ivoire represents 40 percent of total output, not least for the landlocked Burkina Faso in terms of transports of imported goods and exports as well as reduced remittances from nationals.

Burkina Faso and president Compaoré has played an active role to promote peace and stability in the sub region. Compaoré's successful mediation in Togo's political crisis led to an agreement between the main political parties in August 2006. During his one-month tenure as president of the AU Peace and Security Council in September, he chaired talks on the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and presided over a summit on Darfur in New York. His personal engagement in brokering a peace process in

Côte d'Ivoire was crowned in March 2007 with the signing of the Ouagadougou political agreement between President Laurent Gbagbo and rebel leader Guillaume Soro.

Security

Burkina Faso has been seen as a very peaceful country with a significantly low rate of criminality. During 2006, however the security situation raised a certain amount of alarm. Road-blocks, where groups of armed bandits attack travellers, were observed on the main roads to Bénin, Niger and Ghana. The gendarmerie and the police have joined their forces and put in place patrols to survey the most exposed areas.

Democracy and good governance

In Bertelsmann's Transformation Index, Burkina Faso scored at rank 69 (of 119) in 2006, reasonably well in comparison to many other African countries and only slightly below countries like Tanzania and Nigeria. Burkina Faso was classified among countries with "deficiencies in terms of a market based democracy". Joseph Ki-Zerbo, 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 a three-year Plan of Action has been elaborated. A governance profile of the country analysing the current situation in terms of democracy, human rights, security, economic and social development was prepared by the EU delegation. The initiative taken by the Government to promote human rights education was noted with appreciation. However, law enforcement and performance of the judicial system were considered areas with negative tendencies.

Corruption

Corruption in Burkina Faso is perceived to have increased during the last years. The government has created a governmental body to combat corruption, *Haute autorité de la lutte contre la corruption*. Legislation provides a basis to fight corruption but – like in many other African countries – is not sufficiently enforced. The *Haute autorité* itself struggles with finding its role and mandate along with insufficient financial resources and political independence.

In 2006 a national anti-corruption policy was passed by the Government. The policy was questioned by donors as an appropriate basis for the fight against corruption and effective implementation. The political will has also been questioned. This situation has resulted in enhanced attention from donors in their dialogue with the Government.

Human rights

Burkina Faso has signed and/or ratified all major international conventions and protocols. In comparison with many other African countries the human rights situation is relatively positive. Official impunity for human rights violations is a serious problem as well as violence and discrimination against women and children. Improvements have been made in some areas. A national human rights action plan has been presented by the Ministry for Promotion of Human Rights. This document outlines the objectives and action in order of priority. The objectives are three-folded; to promote human rights, to protect human rights, and to implement undertakings stipulated in ratified international treaties in the area of human rights.

The Constitution and legislation provide for an independent judiciary. In practice, the legal framework is insufficient to deal with existing problems in an adequate manner and the judiciary is subject to executive influence. The President has extensive appointment and other judicial powers. The Constitution stipulates that the head of state is also the president of the Superior Council of the Magistrate, which can nominate and remove high ranked magistrates and can examine the performance of individual magistrates. Systemic weaknesses in the justice system include corruption, outdated legal codes, an insufficient number of courts, lack of financial and human resources and excessive legal costs.

The Constitution and legislation provide for freedom of expression and assembly, as well as all demonstration and all other means of expression. Measures of law enforcement authorities or lack of political determination to ensure constitutional guarantees at times lead to restrictions of these rights.

A number of national and international human rights groups generally operate without Government restriction and the Government is responsive to their views. The diversity and freedom of the press is progressing; journalists are, however, sometimes intimidated into practicing self censorship.

Gender

In 2006 the Government adopted an action plan 2006–2010 for the implementation of the National Policy for the Promotion of Women's Rights. Work also started on the drafting of a national gender policy. The current Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) puts greater emphasis on gender issues than the previous strategy. However, a recent review of PRS implementation 2006 reveals that gender issues are still insufficiently taken into account when preparing and presenting review documents. A national population *Census* was carried out late 2006; the first results are expected in April 2007.

Economic development

As of March 1991, Burkina has had four consecutive agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the 1990s indicating a stable economic development. The fourth program, a Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) initiated in 1999, came to an end in September 2006. IMF is currently in the process of determining the form of future cooperation with Burkina Faso. A final decision will be taken by the IMF Executive Board in April 2007.

Burkina is able to maintain a sustainable public debt according to IMF, which estimates the associated risks to be moderate, even if the ratio of external debt to exports is expected to exceed 200% in the coming years. End 2005, the public debt had reached a level of 40.7% of GDP. A selection of key macroeconomic indicators is available in Annex 2.

Burkina is one of the 18 countries selected by G8 for the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) in June 2005. Earlier debt relief initiatives have brought about a reduction in the country's indebtedness from 51% of GDP in 2002 to 37% in 2004. Under the MDRI, the eligible fund credit outstanding for Burkina is of US\$ 90 million as of end September 2006.

Burkina's economic policy has in the past been more focused on macroeconomic stability than on dynamic growth strategies and private sector development. The Government is now taking action to improve the business climate to promote private investment, employment and economic growth. In addition to revising the investment code, there are

efforts to streamline procedures and costs for the transfer of property and the licensing of businesses, as well as implementing reforms to enhance labour market flexibility. In the WB “Doing Business” classification of 2006, Burkina had gained 8 places compared to last year, and the country is now ranked 163 of 175 countries.

“La Maison de l’Entreprise” is a good example of new initiatives for private sector development. Once fully implemented, emerging entrepreneurs will be assisted with all issues related to setting up a company in one location in order to facilitate existing bureaucratic procedures.

Poverty development

Burkina Faso with its GDP per capita of approximately US\$ 300 in 2004, is one of the very poorest countries, ranked 174 of 177 in the UNDP Human Development Index for the year 2004 published end 2006. This represents a slight increase from 175 the year before; however, together with its neighbours Mali and Niger, Burkina remains at the very bottom of the index. Vulnerability to external shocks (climate and regional crises), poor transport infrastructure, the landlocked situation, and prevailing traditional values treating women and girls unfairly aggravates the difficult situation.

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 prioritized in the three-year action program (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 implementation of the CSLP and the MTEF have brought about increased Government expenditure on priority sectors (education, health, rural development etc.) from 3.8% of GDP in 2000 to 5.5% in 2005. In general, the CSLP is implemented as planned and budget execution is relatively good. Yet, the donor community and civil society would like to see these shares further increased – above all, improved quality of basic social services provided, in particular in the areas of education, health, food security and nutrition.

The CSLP is declared by the Government to be the overarching policy for development and poverty alleviation. The on-going decentralization process can allow for further strengthening of the democratic processes and poverty reduction policy implementation at the local level. This is all the more critical in view of the fact that the overwhelming majority of the poor live in rural areas. However, weak institutional and administrative capacity constitutes an important constraint to the process.

The country’s first poverty reduction strategy of 2000 was mainly the work of the Government, whereas the 2003 revision allowed for a higher level of involvement from local authorities, CSOs, the private sector, the Parliament and the donor community. The CSLP aims at economic growth and poverty reduction through the following four main pillars:

1. Accelerating growth based on equity.
2. Guaranteeing access to basic social services and social protection for the poor.
3. Enhancing opportunities for employment and income generating activities for the poor.
4. Promoting good governance.

The CSLP includes all dimensions of poverty with a particular focus on monetary (insufficient income) and human poverty (lack of access). The emphasis is on poverty reduction in terms of improved living conditions, while activities focusing on income poverty and empowerment are less developed. The major quantitative objectives are to:

- Increase per capita gross domestic product by at least 4 percent per year starting in 2004;
- Reduce the current incidence of poverty from 46,4% in 2003 to under 35 percent by 2015 and
- Increase life expectancy to at least 60 years by 2015.

In the CSLP review for 2006, the incidence of poverty is reported to have come down to 40,8%.

The objectives defined by the Government in the CSLP are generally less ambitious than the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Yet, they are clear, concise and – at least in theory – achievable. Furthermore, the Government is improving the MTEF by including the costing of the MDGs.

Further scaling up of aid to accelerate progress on the achievement of the MDGs, and thus also the CSLP targets, is promoted by the local IMF and WB offices in Burkina. The trend among bilateral donors is to increase their support to Burkina.

The group of donors giving general budget support are actively working for increased coordination between the review of the CSLP and the analysis of the budget support Performance Assessment Framework (PAF). On the occasion of the 2006 review of the PAF, the Minister of Finance proposed to add the follow up of the PAF-CSLP indicators, including the PAF indicators and measurement, to the mandate of the Sector and Thematic Commissions (CST) that already monitor CSLP implementation.

In September 2006, SDC became member of the CST for rural development. The CSTs are still not functioning as planned. Reform efforts are on-going to use existing sector frameworks to a greater extent and to increase the number of CSTs in order to facilitate CSLP follow-up.

Harmonization between the Ministry of Finance and Budget and the Ministry of Economy and Development has improved significantly which has facilitated CSLP follow-up. Yet, the CSLP evaluation process still leaves much to be desired, as communication between the line ministries is lacking, due to weak human and technical capacity. In addition, data is scarce and reliable data even more so.

In 2006 a new policy to include development aid in the national budget was adopted by the Government. Nevertheless, many projects and programs still remain outside of the budget structure.

HIV/AIDS situation

The impact of the pandemic is increasingly apparent in the daily life of the Burkinabè. The impact is especially harsh for the poor, as all forms of capital – human, social, financial – of affected households and communities are decreased. The combined impact of poverty and HIV/AIDS has eroded community-based safety nets.

The number of orphans aged 0 to 17 years, having lost one or both parents as a result of HIV/AIDS, is estimated at 120.000. Indicators for child health and well-being, already among the worst in the world, are exacerbated by HIV/AIDS.

The fight against HIV/AIDS has been placed high on the national development agenda, as a result of almost 20 years of increasing action and advocacy by international actors and civil society. However, the level of poverty in the country, in combination with national priorities focusing on other strategic areas, leaves little funding for governmental capacity building and implementation of governmental activities for HIV/AIDS prevention, mitigation, care and treatment.

Communities and civil society have been involved in HIV/AIDS control activities since the early nineties, to fill the gap created by the government's inability to respond satisfactorily to the epidemic.

The National AIDS and Infectious Diseases Control Council (CNLS-IST) was created in 2000 and is chaired by His Excellency, President Blaise Compaoré. A National Strategic Framework (NSF) has been developed for the period 2006–2010 focusing on:

- prevention and voluntary control
- access to treatment, including with anti-retrovirals (ARV), and
- protection of especially vulnerable groups such as Orphans and Vulnerable Children, OVC.

New data from 2006 show a drop in the HIV prevalence to about 2%. In addition to improved surveillance techniques, the Global UNAIDS report 2006 argues that prevention work is showing results. It is estimated that out of 22,500 eligible for treatment, approximately 11,650 (52%) people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) have access to ARV treatment.¹

¹ Plan d'Action 2007, Ministère de la Santé, CNLS

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

The *country allocation* for Burkina Faso 2006 was 140 MSEK. Disbursements during the year amounted to 98.4 MSEK.

The low level of disbursements was mainly due to

- the fact that no disbursements could be made to the basic education program during 2006 (please see below under Social Development, Education)
- delays in the preparation of new agreements for Good Governance programs

In addition, funds totalling 12.5 MSEK were made available from budget lines outside the country allocation (5.5 for research co-operation and 7.0 MSEK for support to non-governmental organizations). Thus, *the total amount of assistance made available to Burkina Faso 2006 was close to 111 MSEK.*

La Direction Générale de la Coopération (DGCOOP), a unit within the Ministry for Finance and Budget, responsible for development cooperation, and the Section for Development Cooperation (*SDC*) carried out a review of Swedish Development Cooperation with Burkina Faso for the period 2004–2006 on 31 May. This was the first formal review in the history of Swedish-Burkinabè development cooperation!

The *Review noted* that

- significant steps had been taken by the Government to reduce poverty in the country – the Swedish delegation urged the Government to continue these efforts and to focus on women and children
- the financial frames for Swedish development cooperation had increased on a yearly basis

The *Review recommended* that

- Sweden open a diplomatic mission in Burkina Faso in order to create a base for reinforced cooperation between the two countries
- Sweden allocate yet larger amounts of financial assistance to Burkina Faso
- future cooperation include support to the country's current decentralisation process

- in respect of research cooperation, the audit of the first phase of the program be concluded and coordination mechanisms be reviewed by the cooperating partners

As specified in the Country Plan for 2006, *SDC* has focused on possibilities to concentrate and harmonize the portfolio. Throughout the year, several initiatives have been taken to increase harmonization and coordination among donors. Global evaluations and strives in the aftermath of the Paris declaration have in Burkina Faso lead to more regular coordination meetings between donor partners under the leadership of the UN Coordinator, in close cooperation with the EU. During the year, a National Coordinator was appointed in the Ministry of Finance and Budget for the follow-up of the Paris Agenda.

The coordination of development cooperation within the EU-group (enlarged to include Switzerland and Canada) has also begun discussing possible joint analyses with a view to harmonize future strategies. The EU Delegation mid-year took the initiative to invite EU member countries and the Government to join efforts to draft a Diagnostic du Pays. This brief Country Analysis, required for the process of preparing the next EU support program, was finalized in September by a joint EU/Government committee in which *SDC* participated actively.

Since the beginning of the last decade, the approach to natural resources and environment management in Burkina Faso is shifting from a project approach to a sector/thematic one. Remarkable progress in policy and programme formulation was made during the year, 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.

SDC participated actively in the preparations of the PRS review in April along with the formulation of the joint donor appreciation of CSLP implementation and public financial management. The Swedish priorities were highlighted on numerous occasions.

4. Specific Country Programme Overview of the Swedish Development Cooperation

4.1 Pro-poor, sustainable growth

Budget support

The annual disbursement of general budget support was carried out in early July following a positive assessment of the general poverty reduction efforts as well as a positive IMF review on macroeconomic stability in 2005 and the first quarter of 2006. The amount disbursed was 50 MSEK in line with the Budget Support Agreement between Sweden and Burkina Faso for the years 2005–2006.

A new two year agreement for general budget support was prepared during the latter part of 2006. The proposal elaborated by SDC was successfully defended before the Project Committee at Sida HQ on December 15. The new agreement represents an increase of 30% compared to the previous two years, in part to support a new strategy to reinforce public financial management (SRFP) through a second tranche. The strategy is comprehensive, covering all national PFM structures. It 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.

For the budget support group, the past year was rich in activities and new initiatives. In particular, a study trip to Mozambique triggered a multitude of proposals to improve the Joint Financing Agreement (JFA) on Budget Support (*Cadre Général d'organisation des Appuis budgétaires en soutien au CSLP*, "CGAB"), signed on January 2005. Some reforms have been discussed in detail and will be carried out in 2007; others are already being implemented such as the co-presidency of CGAB (involving both the Ministry of Finance and Budget and the Ministry of Economy and Development).

The DAC evaluation of ten years of budget support², where Burkina is one of the seven participating countries, refers to the CGAB as a "strong foundation for a genuine policy dialogue." Better harmonization and alignment of aid is achieved in Burkina thanks to GBS, which would be "hard to envisage under other forms of assistance."

Efforts by the budget support group to improve CSLP follow-up have proven less fruitful, partly related to the fact that there are so many

² JOINT EVALUATION OF GENERAL BUDGET SUPPORT 1994–2004 Burkina Faso Country Report

stakeholders involved. There were significant delays in commencing the preparations for the 2006 review, scheduled to be held in April, 2007.

HIV/AIDS

The country strategy states that Sida should find ways of supporting strategic interventions to combat the epidemic. Through close collaboration with the Regional HIV and AIDS Team based in Zambia, Sida decided to support a local NGO, Initiative Privée et Communautaire de Lutte Contre le VIH/Sida au Burkina Faso (IPC) during 2006 – 2007 to scale up prevention work for HIV and AIDS in three provinces of Burkina Faso. The program sponsors local, civil society organisations' work with primarily people living with HIV and AIDS as well as children affected by HIV and AIDS and their families.

IPC is a professional national NGO specialized in supporting community action against HIV/AIDS. Over the last 10 years, IPC has built a solid reputation at the national level. IPC is a member of the National HIV/AIDS Council and several other implementation and coordination bodies for National Multisectoral AIDS programmes. The IPC programme has represented one of the most consistent and important efforts to combat HIV/AIDS in Burkina Faso over the last 10 years. With the support from Sida, IPC will increase access for vulnerable people in the three provinces to quality HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support services. In its first year 2006, the program covers 35 organisations working with more than 1 800 PLHA and more than 3.000 orphans and vulnerable children.

4.2 Democratic governance and social development

Democratic governance

The portfolio for Democratic governance and human rights has continuously been concentrated to fewer projects and larger programs.

Thus, two new agreements are under preparation for support to the Ministry for the Promotion of Human Rights (MPHR) and the Ombudsman institution, *Le Médiateur du Faso*, respectively.

Cooperation has been discussed with the Ministry for Promotion of Human Rights, together with the Netherlands and Denmark.

Discussions have led to a proposed cooperation under a so-called JFA-construction. Denmark has entered into an agreement for cooperation with the Ministry. The Netherlands has made commitment to follow suite. A dialogue concerning future cooperation is underway with the Ombudsman institution.

Ongoing Swedish cooperation builds on support to the following organisations: the National Democratic Institute (NDI), *Centre pour la Gouvernance Démocratique (CGD)* and Diakonia. NDI have prepared female candidates for local elections and have signed a partnership agreement with a local NGO, *the Coalition Burkinabé pour les Droits de la Femme (CBDF)*. CGD has undertaken many activities linked to the preparation of the municipal elections, such as training activities for the capacity building of women and the promotion of their involvement in politics. The cooperation with the main civil society organisations continued through financial support to the work of Diakonia.

SDC has participated actively in the donor groups on elections and democratic development as well as the donor group on good governance.

Social development

Basic Education

It has not been possible to support the basic education program as the audit and repayment of funds from the *Bureau des Projets Education* (BPE) was not finalised as planned during 2006. The finalisation of BPE is a prerequisite for possible new support to the *National Plan for the Development of Basic Education* (PDDEB).

During 2006 SDC focus was on the literacy program supported through *Fonds pour l'Alphabetisation et l'Education Non Formelle* (FONAENF), which has received annual financial support of 8 MSEK. Sida has during 2006 entered into an agreement with FONAENF for 2007–2009 amounting to 24 MSEK. In the 2005/2006 campaign FONAENF supported some 183 000 people in literacy training, out of which 108 000 (59%) were women.

Health

Sida's ongoing support to the national health development plan through *Programme d'Appui au Développement Sanitaire 2005–2008* (PADS-2), is implemented through a delegated partnership with the Netherlands with Sida as silent partner.

PADS is being implemented successfully. The level of execution of planned activities was 85% in 2005 and 86% for 1st semester 2006. Funding is timely available at decentralised level and procedures for utilization are adhered to. In 2006, UNFPA and WB became participating partners, and UNICEF is considering funding through the PADS mechanism. The health sector shows gradual improvement for key performance indicators; however, the present pace is insufficient to achieve the MDGs.

Annual statistics for health are available and detailed. Some national indicators for 2005 are worth noting:

- vaccination coverage for preventable diseases in children is above 80%
- prenatal control for at least two visits stands at 63%,
- 43% of women deliver with qualified assistance
- contraceptive prevalence is 22%

Higher Education and Research

SAREC is cooperating with the *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique* (CNRST), the Ouagadougou University and the Polytechnic University of Bobo Dioulasso since 2001 in implementing a scientific research programme. Following a first four year phase, a second phase lasting from October 2004 to December 2008 is being implemented. The current phase comprises the following components:

Research training: a total of 28 students are pursuing their PhD studies through a sandwich programme involving both Swedish and burkinabé institutions in a joint research programme. A PhD thesis on shea tree fruit production was successfully defended in June 2006. Most of the remaining theses are expected to be defended in 2007.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT): work has begun on the development of ICT infrastructure at the two universities and the CNRST.

Establishment of a Local Research Fund: Discussions were held with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research for the creation of a national research fund to be financed by Sida. In 2007, a

consultant is due to look into alternative institutional arrangements for this fund.

Disbursement of funds for research activities did not take place in 2006. This was because the submission of the annual audits of the research cooperation was delayed, due in part to issues related to the mandate of CNRST and the participating universities. SAREC thus commissioned an external audit. This audit has been completed and has raised a number of issues. Sida is awaiting the management response to the audit response from CNRST.

4.3 Sustainable development of natural resources

In Burkina Faso, natural resources are the livelihood base for the majority of the people who depend directly on agriculture, animal husbandry, forests and fauna products and services. Sustainable and decentralized natural resources management seem to bear a real potential to poverty alleviation through the creation of increased employment and income³ and the promotion of better health conditions. Forests, which are the main source of household energy, also play a strong role in nutrition and food security for the benefit of the poor in rural areas. For many of the newly created rural communes, sustainable natural resources management will probably be the main source of tax revenue on which they will depend financially.

Water is rather scarce in Burkina Faso and appears to be a limiting factor for health improvement as well as industrial and agricultural development to combat poverty in the country.

This is the reason why the Government of Burkina Faso, in its CSLP⁴, has given sustainable natural resources and environmental management (including water and sanitation) a high level of priority. The ambition is to reach the MDGs by 2015.

The objectives for the support within the natural resources sectors are an environmentally friendly and sustainable increase of the productivity as well as increased income and food security for poor people, particularly women and girls. The focus areas for Swedish support are decentralized forest management and water and sanitation.

Support to the integrated water management action plan (PAGIRE)

PAGIRE is being implemented since June 2005. Noticeable and encouraging results have been achieved especially during 2006. Worth mentioning are the following:

- Adoption of more than twenty water management regulations laws;
- Evaluation of water resources in the whole country;
- Creation of a National Water Council (Conseil National de l'Eau – CNE-);
- Creation of a Water Technical Committee (Comité technique de l'eau – CTE) at national level which also acts as the PAGIRE steering committee;
- Creation of 20 local water committees (Comités locaux de l'eau – CLEs) within the Nakambe River Basin;
- Adoption of a utilisation contract for the Sourou river;

³ Since 1996 when a decentralized forest management programme was launched, more than 80,000 employments have been created.

⁴ Cadre Stratégique de Lutte Contre la Pauvreté

- Launching of the Niger River Basin protection programme;
- 78 students in Burkina Faso and Mali undergoing training in water resource management to become water engineers

Challenges for the future: improvement of the quality and quantity of human resources at all levels; effective transfer of resources and responsibilities to appropriate stakeholders at regional and communal levels); development of efficient management and follow-up procedures.

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

This new programme has just been adopted by the government in December 2006. While PAGIRE aims at creating a favourable environment for sustainable water resources management, PN-AEPA is conceived to achieve the millennium development goals on poverty reduction within the forthcoming ten years. Sida has expressed its interest to support this programme. In this perspective, Sida will encourage a joint donor assessment process. The Government itself is striving to bring donors together through the promotion of joint funding mechanisms (basket fund) or direct budget support.

Preparation of a decentralized environment and forest management programme

In 2006, the Ministry of Environment adopted a ten year action plan (PDA⁵) which has been submitted to Sida for funding. An assessment process has been initiated as part of a multi-donor participatory process for the formulation of a three-year support programme.

⁵ Plan décennal d'action

5. Office and administrative issues

During 2006, SDC-staff consisted of *Sent out staff*:

- The Counsellor
- The Economist, who arrived in March
- A senior Programme Officer, social sectors, who arrived in June
- An administrator, who arrived in June (the post was temporary during 2006 in order to reinforce the office, but is from January 2007 permanent)
- A Programme Officer, human rights and democracy, who arrived in December

Locally employed staff:

- A National Programme Officer, natural resources and research, from September
- An Administrative Assistant, formerly a driver who was upgraded in March 2006
- A Secretary, also responsible for the archives
- A Receptionist
- Two drivers, recruited during the period January–March 2006

All job descriptions have been updated to better reflect the actual workload of each staff member. The receptionist and the administrative assistant have both completed training programs in their respective work-related areas during 2006.

Planning days were held in September in Dakar together with personnel from SDC in Bamako, the Embassy in Dakar and UD/Sida, Stockholm. One planning day was held in October for SDC and Sida HQ program staff.

The recommendations from the audit in 2005 and the visit by FU in November 2006 have been taken into consideration and stipulated procedures are now closely followed.

The SDC has four houses for sent out staff and during 2006 considerable efforts have been made to streamline the contracts for staff housing and services.

Service contracts with a new security company, and for generator/garden/pool maintenance have been established as well as a service contract with a travel agency.

Updating and completion of documents such as internal rules, employment conditions for locally employed personnel, local administrative manual and the emergency plan is underway and will be finalized in the near future. Agreements with local and regional auditors and a contract for legal services regarding contracts with suppliers and landlords, labour legislation and screening of legal documents are being worked out.

With a growing number of staff all office space is occupied. The recruitment of a new NPO and the installation of a new IT-platform will require some reconstruction of the premises.

Annex 1:

Planning Overview

Country report - Burkina Faso				Delimitation:			
Outcome and forecast in TSEK				Status: I, P, A and C (agr end > 200600 or Outcome <= 0)			
				Region/Country: Burkina Faso			
				Other:			
Responsible Unit		(All)					
				Data			
Allocation Frame	Allocation Account	Main Sector		Outcome 2006	Forecast 2007	Forecast 2008	Sum of FC2009
Inside country allocation	155001 Burkina Faso	01 Health		22 266	21 000	20 500	0
		02 Education		9 188	23 000	43 000	25 000
		04 HR & Democratic governance		7 537	23 558	18 600	8 300
		09 Natural resources&environm.		4 402	15 568	19 562	19 753
		10 Budget support poverty red.		50 000	60 000	70 000	0
		11 Other		4 971	9 272	8 400	0
		Total		98 364	152 398	180 062	53 053
		155001 Burkina Faso		98 364	152 398	180 062	53 053
		Inside country allocation Total					
	Outside country allocation	15551 Research	03 Research		5 497	7 121	13 400
Total				5 497	7 121	13 400	10 000
15561 Non-governmental organisations		01 Health		3	0		0
		02 Education		21	0		0
		04 HR & Democratic governance		6 187	4 298	3 610	0
		07 Infrastructure		0	0		0
		08 Trade, business & fin. syst		1	0		0
		09 Natural resources&environm.		-4	0		0
		11 Other		752	0		0
		Total		6 961	4 298	3 610	0
		15561 Non-governmental organisations		6 961	4 298	3 610	0
15571 Humanitarian assistance		06 Humanitarian assistance		0	0		0
		Total		0	0		0
15571 Humanitarian assistance			0	0		0	
Outside country allocation Total			12 458	11 419	17 010	10 000	
Grand Total			110 821	163 817	197 072	63 053	

Annex 2:

Fact sheet

Key Facts – Republic Of Burkina Faso 2006

(Principal sources: CIA World Fact Book, EIU Country Report 2006, The World Health Report 2006 and UNDP Human Development Report 2006)

Area:	274 200 sq km (45 provinces). Land locked with 6 neighbouring countries
Population:	14,3 million (where of 46,7% under 15 years) ⁶
Official language:	French
Political Structure	
Head of State:	President Blasie Compaoré (since 15 October 1987)
National Assembly:	111 elected members for a five-year term. 13 are women (11.7 %).
Elections	
Presidential and Parliamentary elections:	Presidential election last held 13 November 2005 (next to be held in 2010). Parliamentary elections are also held every five years and the last ones took place in 2002. Elections will be held in May 2007.
Local Government elections:	Every five years. Local elections were held in April 2006.
Political parties represented in the Parliament:	
Congrès pour la démocratie et le progrès (CDP, the governing party)	
Parti pour la démocratie et le progrès-Parti socialiste (PDP-PS)	
Union nationale pour la démocratie et le développement (UNDD)	
Alliance pour la démocratie et la fédération-Rassemblement démocratique africain (ADF-RDA) Coalition des forces démocratiques (CFD; an electoral alliance of six parties) Parti africain de l'indépendance (PAI) Parti pour la renaissance nationale (Paren)	
Convention panafricaine sankariste (CPS)	
Union pour la renaissance-Mouvement sankariste (Unir-MS)	
Parti pour la démocratie et le socialisme (PDS)	
Convention nationale des démocrates progressistes (CNDP)	

⁶ CIA World Fact Book. Note: estimates for this country explicitly take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS; this can result in lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality and death rates, lower population and growth rates, and changes in the distribution of population by age and sex than would otherwise be expected (July 2007 est.)

Economic Indicators	2005⁷	2006⁷
Currency: FCFA (1 USD)	528.04	522,9
Real GDP growth:	7.1%	6,4%
Consumer price inflation:	6.4%	2,4%
Export of goods (fob) MUSD:	433,3	534,1
Import of goods (fob) MUSD:	-939,5	-1094,1
Current account balance:	-498,1	-537,3
Social Indicators		
Population growth rate est. 2003–2015:	2.9 %	
Ethnic groups:	63 ethnic groups among which are Mossi (almost half of the total population), Bobo, Mande, Lobi, Fulani, Gourounsi, and Senufo	
Poverty level ⁸ :	48,8	
Rural/urban population:	82/18	
Human Development Index (2006):	No 174 (out of 177 countries)	
Life expectancy at birth (male/female) ⁹ :	48/51 years	
Births Attended by skilled health professionals ⁸		
HIV positive (15–49 age group) ¹⁰ :	43%	
	1,5–2,5%	
Health as % of total government budget ⁸	12,3%	
Adult literacy ¹¹ :	Average 21,8% (women 15,2%, men 29,4%)	
Education as % of total government budget ⁸	15,03%	
Corruption Perceptions Index (TI)	Ranking 79 (of 163 countries surveyed)	

⁷ Official estimates, EIU

⁸ CGAB-CSLP review for 2006

⁹ CIA The World Factbook

¹⁰ UNAIDS 2006

¹¹ Human Development Report 2006

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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