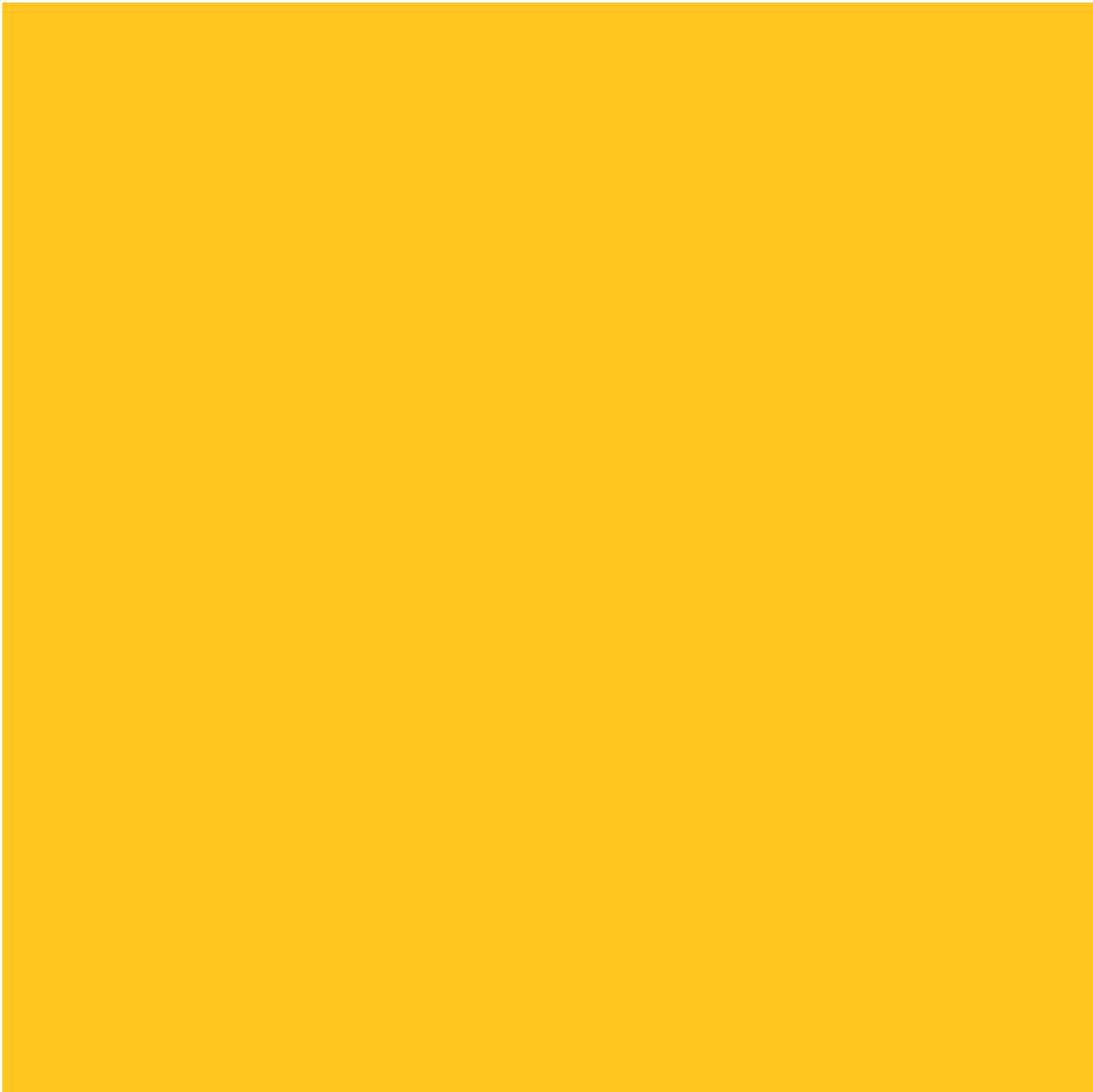


Burkina Faso



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1. Summary

Burkina Faso, a land-locked country in West-Africa, without any significant natural resources, is slowly moving in the right direction when it comes to democratic development, good governance, human rights and the fight against poverty. The relatively stable political and social environment within the country has, in spite of the extreme lack of own resources, resulted in visible changes for the better during the last decade.

About 90% of the population is engaged in subsistence agriculture, which is particularly vulnerable to harsh climatic conditions. Cotton is the key crop and the government has joined with other cotton producing countries in the region to lobby for improved access to Western markets. Efforts are made to diversify the economy but industry remains dominated by unprofitable government-controlled corporations.

Despite the world market's high prices on oil and low prices on cotton, the economic growth was higher than expected: the country achieved a real GDP of 7.1% in 2005 (compared to 4.6% in 2004) thanks to a record crop. Steady economic growth in the last couple of year has had positive effects on the poverty levels. There is clearly a political commitment in the country and within the donor community to find effective instrument to combat poverty and to manage the public revenues and expenditures.

Although improving, Burkina Faso remains one of the poorest countries in the world and the fight against poverty is the country's greatest challenge. Burkina Faso's Poverty Reduction Strategy (CSLP – Cadre Stratégique pour la Lutte contre la Pauvreté) is an appropriate framework for combating poverty, but public sector management reforms, capacity reinforcement of the administration and a better coherence between the sector ministries are called for, in order to turn this strategy into an effective and efficient tool for poverty reduction.

Burkina Faso requires external assistance to fight poverty. The country is currently implementing its second Poverty Reduction Strategy from 2004. Allocations to high priority areas such as health, education and water, have increased. School enrolment and literacy programs have exceeded earlier targets since the completion point and dropout rates have declined. Progress has been achieved in raising immunization coverage rates, lowering infant and child mortality rates, ensuring a good supply of essential drugs, and reducing the transmission of HIV/AIDS. Economic and institutional requirements are being improved as well as possibilities for donor-government dialogue. Issues of concern are the

vulnerable situation for women and girls together with democratic development which requires persistent focus and dialogue.

Democratic development has been consolidated within the last years through an increasingly more open debate. In the light of the amendment of the constitution in 2001, limiting the number of presidential terms in office to two, there has been an animated debate concerning the president's right to participate in the elections of November 2005. Finally, sitting president Compaoré of the Congress for Democracy and Progress Party (CDP) won yet another five-year term with over 80% of the votes. The opposition is weak and unfocused and did not pose any serious threat to the governing party. The closest runner-up, opposition leader Sankara, received only 5% percent of the votes.

- The first Country Strategy for the Swedish development co-operation with Burkina Faso for the period 2004–2006 has been prolonged until 2007,
- The current Agreement for Development Cooperation between Sweden and Burkina Faso covers the period 2004–2006,
- An Agreement on Terms and Procedures was signed in April 2005.

Sweden takes an active part in the harmonisation process in Burkina Faso and is represented in a number of working groups together with development partners and governmental bodies in the different sectors of interest for Sweden.

Sweden made a total amount of 113.7 MSEK available to Burkina Faso in development assistance during 2005.

2. Political, Economic and Poverty Development

Political development

The political scene 2005 was dominated by the presidential elections held in November 2005. President Compaoré of the Congress for Democracy and Progress Party (CDP) won a new five-year term with 80,3% of the votes. The opposition was weak and divided. The closest runner-up, opposition leader Sankara, received only 5% of the votes. Almost a third of the country's 120 political parties rallied behind Compaoré in the country's first multiparty election. The most prominent opposition coalition, *Alternance 2005*, failed to agree on one common candidate and nominated three.

International and national electoral observers generally believed that the elections were fair. "These elections show that democracy has taken root in Burkina Faso", an African Union observer told the UN website IRIN. Yet, the elections were criticised. Civil Society representatives said too few people were registered to vote. Of the 3.9 million registered voters (representing less than 40% of the population), only 57% turned out for the poll. Burkina has the world's highest number of illiterate adults, which constituted another hampering factor.

A new law providing for the *decentralisation* of political and economic power to the local administrative structures was passed in 2005.

Security

Burkina Faso has been seen as a very peaceful country with a significantly low rate of criminality towards the public but the security situation in the country seems to be deteriorating, especially in rural areas. A disturbing number of road-blocks where groups of armed bandits attack travellers have been observed on the main roads to Bénin, Niger and Ghana. The gendarmerie and the police have joined their forces and put in places patrols to survey the most exposed areas which however does not seem to put an end to this malpractice.

Corruption

Corruption in Burkina Faso is perceived to have increased during the last years. The government has created a governmental body to combat corruption, la Haute autorité de la lutte contre la corruption. Legislative texts provide for a good basis to fight corruption but – like in many other African countries – are not being sufficiently applied. The Haute autorité

itself struggles with finding its role and mandate along with insufficient financial resources and political independence.

The issue of corruption is often put on the agenda in various national forums involving the civil society and donors as well as the Government. A national strategy to fight corruption has been drafted and was submitted to the Council of Ministers in December 2005.

Corruption is on the increase and concerns have been raised as a national policy for the fight against corruption has not yet been adopted. The absence of a formal framework constitutes a clear handicap when coordinating the fight against corruption.

Human rights

Burkina Faso has signed and/or ratified all major international conventions and protocols.

Impunity for human rights violations remains a serious problem. The legal framework is not sufficient to deal with this problem in an efficient way. The Constitution provides for an independent judiciary; however, in practice 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 Magistrature, which can nominate and remove high-ranked magistrates and can examine the performance of individual magistrates. There are other weaknesses in the justice system such as outdated legal codes, an insufficient number of courts, a lack of financial and human resources, and excessive legal costs for the normal citizen.

Freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, as well as all other means of expression, are guaranteed in the present Burkinabè Constitution. Despite the existence of constitutional guarantees and national legislation, lack of official determination to ensure these rights have at times limited and still limit those freedoms.

Gender

The results of a study on gender in Burkina Faso, which was carried out in 2005, will be discussed in seminar to be held in Burkina Faso mid 2006. The study will form the basis for a decision on possible development interventions and will constitute an important point of reference for the elaboration of a new Country Strategy for Burkina Faso.

Conflict issues

The ongoing armed conflicts in the sub region still affect Burkina Faso negatively as trading routes and partners continue to be cut off at the same time as Burkinabè returning home bring about economic and social strain in the country.

Border areas with neighbouring countries experience clashes and unrest:

- two Burkina Faso villages are in dispute along the border with Benin;
- Benin accuses Burkina Faso of moving boundary pillars;
- border regions remain a staging area for Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire rebels and an asylum for refugees caught in local fighting;
- the Ivorian Government has accused Burkina Faso of sheltering Ivorian rebels.

Burkina Faso has during the last years suffered both socially and economically from the consequences of the civil war and continued unrest in the neighbouring country Ivory Coast. Burkina Faso has been accused to

actively support the rebel movement and therefore Burkinabè citizens living in the Ivory Coast have been severely attacked.

Generally, a positive role is attributed to Burkina Faso in the regional context, even if the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire made the situation difficult for Burkina Faso in 2005. Burkina Faso remains supportive of the peace process.

Economic development

Economic reforms are being implemented as planned and Burkina Faso received high praise from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the recent Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility review for sound macroeconomic policies and appropriate balance between fiscal restraint and pro-poor expenditure. Despite the world market's high prices on oil and low prices on cotton, the country achieved a real GDP of 7.1% in 2005 (compared to 4.6% in 2004) thanks to a record crop.

After a peak in inflation of 9.7% in August 2005, the food and fuel prices started to decrease in September. Earlier in the year, the food prices had obtained record high levels due to the weak harvest and locust invasion of 2004. As a result, the inflation pressure started to decrease. However, the yearly inflation of 6.4% is significantly higher than the three earlier years and more than double the target (3.1%) set for 2005.

The government managed the fiscal deficit during the terms of trade chock and reached a lower deficit than expected.

In December 2005, IMF announced that Burkina Faso had qualified for debt relief under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative. The IMF will provide 100 percent debt relief on all debt incurred by Burkina Faso to the IMF before January 1, 2005, that remains outstanding, representing between 764 and 830 MSEK (approx. 45.5 to 49.4 billion CFA).

According to the IMF, Burkina Faso's public expenditure management (PEM) system performance has improved since the completion point; budget coverage is generally complete and extra-budgetary expenditures are negligible. Furthermore, the medium-term expenditure framework and annual budget laws are aligned with poverty reduction strategy priorities.

A national policy on good governance was adopted in July 2005.

Poverty development

Burkina Faso is one of the world's poorest countries with an apparently permanent position in the bottom of the UNDP Human Development Index (173 out of 175). Encouragingly, the World Bank estimates that the poverty headcount has decreased by 8 percentage points between 1998 and 2003.

After the particularly difficult weather conditions of 2004, the country was able to achieve further reductions in poverty in 2005. However, growth is volatile as the economy remains vulnerable, dependent on one export product – cotton.

Poverty is not only financial as the country is burdened with a lack of choice and resources. According to national analysts, the Burkinabè poverty is caused by

- Extreme climate dependency
- Geographical location
- Weak economy
- Insufficient capacity to use and prioritise among acquired investments
- Weak efficiency of the public administration
- Insufficient coordination of official development assistance.

Burkina Faso has a poverty reduction strategy, PRS (Cadre Stratégique pour la Lutte contre la Pauvreté, CLSP) dating from 2000. This strategy was revised in 2003/2004 in collaboration with representatives of the local communities as well as the civil society and the donors.

The revised strategy covers the period up through 2006; its objective is a reduction of the level of poverty from 46% of the population in 2003 to 41% in 2006, through

- Increased growth based on equal distribution
- Improved access to social services and social protection for the poor
- Increased possibilities for generating income
- Promotion of good governance

In the initial years following the adoption of the first PRS, economic growth did not reach expected levels and outcome on other indicators was rather low. Nevertheless, lately, the social sectors have received increased allocations and the PRS priorities are reflected in the budget. Worth noting is that these priorities have been maintained even during difficult times with general financial cuts, such as, for instance, during periods of drought.

The framework of the revised PRS includes an overall plan of action (Programme d'Action Prioritaire, PAP), which is updated annually. The plan outlines clear priorities in improved coherence with individual *sector* plans and stipulates financial requirements. The number of indicators has been reduced, which, together with a newly created mechanism for evaluation and assessment, will facilitate follow up.

Nevertheless, the evaluation process still leaves much to be desired where

- communication between the ministries is lacking due to weak human and technical capacity,
- data is scarce and reliable data even more so,
- The Burkinabè public administration appears to prefer elaborating action plans and development programs rather than analysing results thereof.

The target figures of economic growth needed to implement the strategy appear realistic in light of the trend between 1998 and 2003, especially so when taking into consideration the government actions to dampen external shocks to the economy. The World Bank deems the set targets to be realistic even in a gloomy scenario, such as with a downfall of 10% in the primary sector due to extremely negative climate conditions. The Burkinabè expectation of a reduced poverty level to 29% of the population by 2015 is shared by the Bretton Woods Institutions.

This means that eliminating extreme poverty and hunger being a millennium development goal is within reach, paving the way for a global partnership for development.

The PRS is, however, still very weak in treating cross-cutting issues of importance to acquire a sustainable development; gender, children and environment. Reducing inequalities between men and women is said to be one of seven guiding principles for the strategy; all the same, there are no specific action plans in this respect. The revised PRS appears to have strengthened its gender perspective; however, a lot remains to be done.

Putting these issues on the Burkinabè agenda will remain a Swedish priority for the coming years.

HIV/AIDS

Burkina Faso appears very vulnerable vis-à-vis the HIV/AIDS epidemic, due to its low level of development. The impact of the pandemic is increasingly apparent in all social sectors and in the daily life of the Burkinabè. The current estimated adult national prevalence rate stands at 4, 2%, which means Burkina Faso is among the countries hardest hit in West Africa. 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. As a result of the government's limited capacity to respond to the increased needs of households and communities, growing numbers of individuals and households have to subsist without access to basic services and with unmet basic needs.

A particularly alarming feature of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Burkina Faso is the growing number of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). As the mortality rate of people in the prime of their lives grows, the number of children who have lost one or both parents increases. The number of orphans aged 0 to 17 years and having lost one or both parents as a result of HIV/AIDS is estimated at 260.000, representing approximately 35% of all orphans in the country. Indicators for child health and well-being are already among the worst in the world and are exacerbated by HIV/AIDS.

Theoretically, the fight against HIV/AIDS has been placed high on the national development agenda which is a result of almost 20 years of increasing action and advocacy by international actors, civil society. But 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)*, which was created in 2000, is chaired by the His Excellency,

President Blaise Compaoré. In the first half of 2005, an evaluation of the implementation of the National Strategic Framework (NSF) 2001–2005 and its implementation was conducted and a new strategic framework was developed for the period 2006–2010. The new NSF was adopted in June 2005, which focuses on:

- access to treatment, including with anti-retrovirals (ARV), and
- the epidemic's impact on children, and the need to improve care and support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children, OVC.

3. Overall Assessment of the Country Programme

The country allocation was preliminarily set to 55 MSEK with a forecast of an additional 50 MSEK for general budget support. Disbursements amounted to 97.2 MSEK during 2005. In addition, funds totalling

16.5 MSEK was made available from budget lines outside the country allocation (14.4 for research co-operation and 2.1 MSEK for support to non-governmental organizations). Thus, the total amount of assistance made available to Burkina Faso 2005 was 113.7 MSEK.

General

In 2005, the SDC has maintained a sharp *focus on Swedish strategic development priorities*. Thus, the office has advocated for an improved analysis of the situation for women and girls in the country's reports on poverty reduction efforts as well as in the elaboration of co-operation agreements on health sector support. The SDC was instrumental in making the fight against corruption a responsibility for the government outlined in the Joint Financial Agreement on Budget Support signed in January 2005.

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

A number of studies made during the Country Strategy process were presented to Burkinabè partners at a seminar in April 2005 in the presence of Ambassador Inga Björk-Klevby from Abidjan together with Sida and Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs representatives. The seminar was organised by CESAO (Centre d'Etudes Economiques et Sociales de l'Afrique de l'Ouest) and gathered key partners from the Burkinabè civil society and public administration for discussions and debate.

In connection with the seminar, a bilateral *Agreement of Terms and Procedures* for the period 2004–2006 was signed between Sweden and Burkina Faso.

Throughout 2005, a number of initiatives were taken to increase harmonization and coordination among donors. Global evaluations and endeavours in the aftermath of the Paris declaration have lead to more regular coordination meetings within the donor group with UNDP playing an important role. The coordination of development efforts within the enlarged EU-group (including Switzerland and Canada) has also begun discussing possible joint analyses and alignment of strategies.

4. Specific Country Programme Overview of the Swedish Development Cooperation

Pro-poor, sustainable growth

Budget support

In January 2005 a new Joint Financial Agreement (JFA) on Budget Support (*Cadre Général d'organisation des Appuis budgétaires en soutien au CSLP*, "CGAB") was signed, in which a larger ownership for the government was outlined together with a clearer coordination and division of responsibilities for the donors.

Following the delegation to Sida for the decision on budget support, an amount of 50 MSEK was allocated in June as general budget support for 2005 (with the provision for the same amount in 2006). A bilateral agreement was signed shortly after and disbursement was made in September following a positive assessment of the general poverty reduction efforts as well as a positive IMF review on macroeconomic stability in 2004.

Economic and Social development – HIV/AIDS

The regional *HIV/AIDS* team at the Swedish Embassy in Lusaka visited Burkina Faso in January 2005 in order to assist the SDC in mapping ongoing support in preparation for possible Swedish interventions. The team recommended that ways to support the national umbrella organisation IPC (*Initiative Privée et Communautaire de lutte contre le VIH/Sida Burkina Faso*) through the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, which already is a partner of Sida, should be looked into.

A project proposal from IPC/The Alliance was submitted in July 2005 and a meeting was held in September between IPC, The Alliance, the SDC and The Regional HIV/AIDS team. A formal decision to support the IPC project was taken and a first disbursement (3 150 00 SEK) was made to IPC in December 2005.

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 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 three provinces in Burkina Faso to quality HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support services.

Democratic governance and social development

Democratic governance

The Swedish support to democratic governance and human rights has been implemented as planned during 2005. The portfolio had a wide approach.

A new agreement was made with the National Democratic Institute, whose focus on women's rights is in line with the Swedish strategy for Burkina Faso.

A new agreement with the Ombudsman was prepared at the end of the year. This cooperation also opened a window for mutual future exchange visits with both Swedish and Malian counterparts in this field.

The cooperation with civil society continued with support to the work of Diakonia.

The 2005 audit of Centre Gouvernance Démocratique concluded that, on the whole, the co-operation was functioning well.

A new cooperation has been discussed with the Ministry for Promotion of Human Rights, together with the Netherlands and Denmark. Discussions have started on how to organise the cooperation where the goal is a JFA-construction which could also include other future partners.

Conseil Constitutionnel received support for a seminar on legal assistance to the public in constitutional disagreements. This was not foreseen in the planning of late 2004, but was considered highly interesting given the presidential elections in November of 2005 as well as the wide participation at the seminar.

Intended support to the Ministry of Women, to the UNDP (for reinforcing the National Assembly), to the Burkinabè programme on strengthened public financial management and to the Observatoire Indépendante d'Elections (for preparations of the local elections 2006) was not implemented during 2005.

The SDC has actively participated in the donor group on elections and democratic development with regular meetings presided by the EU president (the Netherlands handed over the presidency to France in July, 2005).

Social development – Health

The agreement for the Health Sector Support for *PADS* -2 was signed in July 2005 with Sweden as a delegated partner to The Netherlands Embassy.

The total amount for the period 2005–2008 is 80 MSEK. A first disbursement of 20.8 MSEK was made in connection with the signing of the agreement. The French development cooperation agency (*Agence Française de Développement*) also joined the partnership with focus on the HIV/AIDS activities. The possibility to change the support into a sector wide approach within the health sector remains a subject for discussion with the government and the donors.

Social development – Basic Education

As for support to the basic education sub-sector, discussions on the implementation of the National Plan for Basic Education (*Plan Décennal de Développement de l'Education de Base*, PDDEB) dominated the scene. A positive trend regarding the access to formal as well as non-formal education is noted. Some modest progress has also been made to improve the quality of basic education (mainly in relation to the provision of school material), but major challenges such as the reform of the curricula remain to be dealt with. Furthermore, it becomes more and more

urgent for the government of Burkina Faso to tackle the issue of an increasing number of pupils finishing primary education by the formulation of a sustainable strategy for secondary education.

Due to weak financial reporting, Sweden withheld its disbursement of the 18 MSEK still remaining according to the bilateral agreement from 2003, which expired in October 2005. The external coordination office, *Bureau des Projets Education*, BPE, responsible for the financial management of the donor contributions to PDDEB through a common basket – so-called *panier commun*, was closed in the beginning of the year. An external audit of the BPE started in 2005.

Sweden participated in the formulation of a Joint Financial Arrangement (JFA) between the government of Burkina Faso and the donors joining the basket fund arrangement CAST (Compte d'Affectation Spéciale de Trésor). The Netherlands, the World Bank, Canada, Denmark and France have together with the government of Burkina Faso signed the JFA in 2005, while Sweden has indicated its willingness to sign once the audit of BPE has been finalised and a new Swedish support decided upon.

As part of the national basic education programme, the literacy programme supported through FONAENF (*Fonds pour l'Alphabétisation et l'Education Non Formelle*), made progress according to plans. The Swedish support to FONAENF amounted to 8 MSEK in 2005.

Social development – Higher Education and Research

Swedish support to higher education and research was renewed through the signature of a bilateral agreement in May 2005 amounting to 66 MSEK over a four year period (2005–2008). In 2005, a 14.3 MSEK was disbursed.

At an annual review meeting held in October 2005, it was agreed that the Local Research Fund (LRF), to be financed by Sida, shall come into force before the end of 2006. The ToR of the LRF were discussed and agreed upon and plans are underway to identify members of the Scientific Council of the LRF.

The decision to channel the “sandwich” students subsistence grants (whilst in Sweden) through the Swedish Institute was implemented. Furthermore, discussions were held with “The International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications” (INASP) for making international scientific publications available to the universities in Burkina Faso.

The activity plan for the implementation of the TIC (Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication) programme at CNRST and the universities of Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso, was initiated in late 2005. Finally, it is anticipated that some students will defend their theses before the end of 2006.

Sustainable development of natural resources

Burkina Faso is highly dependent on its natural resources. This is valid for the national economy (export of cotton, livestock etc, and provision of household energy), the large rural population (food, livelihood, cash income) as well as for the urban population (food, water, household energy).

The objectives for the support within these sectors are to support an environmentally friendly and sustainable increase of the productivity and to increase the income and security of poor people, particularly women and girls. The focus areas are market oriented natural resources management, decentralized forest management and integrated water resources management.

In June 2005 a bilateral agreement was signed with the Ministry for Agriculture and Water (MAHRH) regarding support through a basket funding arrangement with the Danish Embassy to the National Action Plan for Management of Integrated Water Resources (PAGIRE).

Sida participated in the joint donor appraisal mission of the Rural Development Programme (PADAB2). One conclusion from this participation is that two of the three components are already fully funded and that Sida could possibly contribute to the third component, which is formulated as support to the new national micro-finance programme. Discussions were also initiated with the Ministry of Environment and other actors in the forestry sector regarding possible support to decentralized forestry in relation to the creation of new rural communes in 2006.

Swedish support is also benefiting Burkina Faso through the regional co-operation, with organizations such as CREPA (Centre Régional pour l'Eau Potable et l'Assainissement à Faible Coût), IUCN (The World Conservation Union) and IIED (International Institute for Environment and Development).

The Drinking Water and Sanitation network CREPA was evaluated with a positive result in 2005 by a team of independent consultants and during the last months of the year, the new 5-year programme was finalized. Sida has expressed interest in funding an expanded programme which includes broad dissemination of results in order to achieve a stronger impact. A new agreement is expected to be signed in the beginning of 2006.

The agreement for the second phase of the IIED Project "Making Decentralization Work" was signed in June 2005. The project, which covers Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, is promoting good local governance and sustainable management of natural resources in the on-going decentralization processes.

The agreement with IUCN concerns a three year project for Improving Water Governance in the Volta River Basin focusing on Burkina Faso and Ghana. These two countries are highly dependent on the Volta waters for electricity production, irrigation and municipal water supply. The Volta River remains one of the main transboundary watercourses in Africa without an international treaty, and without a basin-wide coordination mechanism.

5. Office and Administrative Issues

During 2005,

- SDC staff was increased with a part-time receptionist and a locally employed Swedish administrator.
- In August, an administrative officer was appointed for Mali and Burkina Faso. Although stationed in Bamako she devotes 35% of her time to the office in Ouagadougou, which was an appreciated reinforcement of the administrative capacity of the office.
- A regional officer for Democracy and Human Rights started his work in Mali in August 2005.

The premature departure of the economist in July 2005 (and difficulties in finding her replacement), in combination with changes and temporary solutions in manning the Head of Section post, lead to some degree of reduced efficiency in program implementation and monitoring.

During the year, several activities had to be postponed due to the complicated staffing situation at the SDC. The formulation of an internal strategy and action plan for further anti-corruption efforts including staff training on corruption awareness, scheduled for 2005, had to be postponed due to staff shortage.

As for quality assurance measures, the AFRA management response to reports on the administration at the SDC was assessed during the seminar in April. An internal audit of the office was carried out mid-September.

Until the end of November 2005, the SDC was formally a Section of the Swedish Embassy in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Due to security situation in that country, a decision was taken to temporarily close the Embassy in Abidjan and withdraw all diplomatic personnel in December 2005. The SDC is still awaiting a decision regarding the future of the Embassy in Abidjan and is, in the interim, awaiting information on future administrative and leadership arrangements for the office.

Annex 1

Planning Overview

Outcome and forecast in TSEK		Delimitation:
		Status: I, P, A and
		Region/Country
		Other:
Responsible Unit	(All)	

			Data
Allocation Frame	Allocation Account	Main Sector	Outcome 2005
Inside country allocation	155001 Burkina Faso	01 Health	23 890
		02 Education	10 202
		04 HR & Democratic governance	7 440
		09 Natural resources&environm.	2 285
		10 Budget support poverty red.	50 000
		11 Other	3 397
		No sector stated	0
	155001 Burkina Faso	Total	97 213
Inside country allocation Total			97 213
Outside country allocation	15551 Research	02 Education	14 344
	15551 Research	Total	14 344
	15561 Non-governmental organisations	01 Health	72
		02 Education	147
		04 HR & Democratic governance	1 124
		07 Infrastructure	1
		08 Trade, business & fin. syst	9
		09 Natural resources&environm.	91
		11 Other	669
	15561 Non-governmental organisations	Total	2 113
	15571 Humanitarian assistance	06 Humanitarian assistance	5
	15571 Humanitarian assistance	Total	5
Outside country allocation Total			16 462
Grand Total			113 675

Annex 2

Fact sheet

Key Facts – Republic of Burkina Faso 2005

(Principal sources: CIA World Fact Book, EIU Country Report 2005, The World Health Report 2006 and UNDP Human Development Report 2005)

Area:	274 200 sq km (45 provinces). Land locked with 6 neighbouring countries
Population:	13.9 million (where of 46% under 15 years) ¹
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.
Local Government elections:	Every five years. Local elections were held in April 2006.
<i>Political parties represented in the Parliament:</i>	Congrès pour la démocratie et le progrès (CDP, the governing party)

¹ 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 2005 est.)

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)

Economic Indicators

<i>Economic Indicators</i>	<i>2004²</i>	<i>2005³</i>
Currency: FCFA (1 USD)	528.29	528.04
Real GDP growth:	4.6%	7.1% ⁴
Consumer price inflation:	-0.4%	6.4% ⁴
Export of goods (fob) MUSD:	439	416
Import of goods (fob) MUSD:	-888	-1016
Current account balance:	-433	-639

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:	44.9% under 1 USD/day
Rural/urban population:	83/17
Human Development Index (2005):	No 175 (out of 177 countries)

² Actual figures, EIU

³ Official estimates, EIU

⁴ Revised IMF estimate

WHO Health Index (2001):	No 188 (out of 191 countries)
Life expectancy at birth (male/female):	47/48 years
Births Attended by skilled health professionals (1995–2003)	31%
HIV positive (15–49 age group):	2.7–4.2%
Health as% of total government budget ⁵	10.2%
Adult literacy:	Average 12.8% (women 8.1%, men 18.5%)
Education as% of total government budget ⁵	14.4%
Corruption Perceptions Index	Ranking 70 (of 159 countries surveyed)

⁵ Budget based on the Finance Law of 2005 without debt, fiscal exonerations and exterior funding

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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