



2004 • THE SECTION OFFICE FOR DEVELOPMENT
CO-OPERATION IN OUAGADOUGOU

Sida Country Report 2003

Burkina Faso



Content

Acronyms	3
1 Summary	5
2. Strategic Country Development Trends	7
2.1 Poverty Reduction: General trends and prospects	8
2.2 Macro-economic development	14
2.3 Political development, good governance and human rights	17
2.4 Co-operation for development and partnership	21
3. Swedish co-operation for development	23
3.1 Strategic appreciation and considerations	23
3.2 General review of the programme of co-operation with Burkina Faso	23
3.3 Short report on Sida support to significant sub-regional programmes involving Burkina Faso	27
3.4 Administration of the programme	30

Published by Sida 2005

Department for Africa

Author: The Section Office for Development Co-operation in Ouagadougou

Printed by Edita Sverige AB, 2005

Art. no.: SIDA4421en

This publication can be downloaded/ordered from www.sida.se/publications

Acronyms

ADF-RDA:	Alliance pour la Démocratie et la Fédération/ Rassemblement Démocratique Africain Political Party
ARV:	Anti Retro Viral
ILO:	International Labour Organisation
BPW:	Building and Public Works
CDP:	Congrès pour la Démocratie et le Progès, Political party
CFAA:	Country Financial Accountability Assessments
Revised PRSP:	Second PRSP of Burkina Faso
PRSP:	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
DHD:	Sustainable Human Development
DHS:	Health and Demographic Inquiries
PRGF:	Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility
WREF:	Fund for Water and Rural Equipment
NRG-DHD:	National Reflection Group – Sustainable Human Development
UFI:	Unique Fiscal Identification
IIED:	International Institute for the Environment and Development
NEPAD:	New Partnership for Africa’s Development
MDG:	Millennium Development Goals
UNAIDS:	United Nations against AIDS
DPDEE:	Decennial Programme for the Development of Elementary Education
PDP/S P:	Party for Democracy and Progress/Socialist Party
NPHD:	National Programme for Health Development
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
TFP:	Donors
REN-LAC:	National Anti-Corruption Network
RESIN:	Inter-Administrative Network
SBC-CSLP:	Joint Budget Support Group – Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
SIGASPE:	Integrated System for Administrative and Salaries Management
UEMOA:	West African Monetary and Economic Union
UNDD:	Union Nationale pour la Démocratie et le Développement

HIV/AIDS: Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immuno-
Deficiency Syndrome

ZACA: Area for Administrative and Trading Activities

1 Summary

With an annual income per capita of about 225 EURO and regularly ranked among the last five on the Human Development Index (HDI), Burkina Faso remains one of the poorest countries in the world. In addition to the low income level, there are poor health and education systems as well as food insecurity in the country, especially in rural areas. To address this situation, the Burkina Government has committed itself to fight against poverty, with support from the international community.

The social and political crisis in the sub-region, especially the Ivorian crisis, greatly affected the country's economy and increased poverty during 2003. However, it is worth noting some improvements in basic social sectors (education, health, drinking water, nutrition and sanitation) during the year. As far as HIV/AIDS is concerned, Burkina Faso records a slight decrease in the prevalence rate estimated at 6,5 in 2003 against 7,17 in 1997. Nevertheless, Burkina Faso remains among the most affected countries in the sub-region.

Significant achievements were noticed during 2003. In fact, the first assessment of its PRSP was made in July 2003. After three years of implementation, the Government started, in 2003, the revision of the PRSP with the involvement of the civil society and the donor community. The third three-year programme with the IMF ended in June 2003. The country also negotiated a new programme, supported by the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) for 2003–2006. The first review of this new programme took place in November further to a joint mission of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

At an international level, it can be noted that the President seems to make efforts to improve the image of himself and of Burkina Faso. The opposition has difficulties in proposing political alternatives and continues to weaken. The debate in connection with the candidature of Blaise Compaoré for the presidential elections of 2005, started at the end of the year.

The issue of corruption, which is a plague that influences all the layers of the society, is under discussion. Despite all the structures that have been installed to address this subject, no improvement is visible. The situation regarding human rights is not without reproach and the security of citizens keeps on degrading.

Despite numerous problems on economic, social and political levels, it is worth noting the firm and well declared will of the Government and the civil society in Burkina Faso to commit themselves for the development of the country, and this in close collaboration with multilateral and bilateral partners. The civil society, however, plays a relatively passive role in the public political debate.

The Sida office has during 2003 consolidated its presence among the development partners in Burkina Faso. This report will make a summary of the general situation in Burkina Faso as well as Swedish commitments within this framework.

2. Strategic Country Development Trends

The PRSP is a framework document, stating the development priority objectives of the Government. It does not replace the sector-related strategies already existing or in the course of finalization. It is however the reflection of the essential choices made at prioritized sectors' level. The steps which underlie the development and the implementation of the PRSP are iterative. To take account of lessons learned concerning the implementation of the first periode, the Government has decided to revise its PRSP every three years.

At the end of the first three-year programme, the Government was more convinced that the effective implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper was strongly dependent on its internalization by its various stakeholders (*see Report of national sittings on the (PRSP) of July 2002*). The Government wanted that the revision process of PRSP, officially launched on 18 of April 2003, during a ceremony gathering all the social classes (about 600 participants), should be an exercise with a broad participation. The official launching of the process was preceeded by a series of meetings, started in February–March 2003 including the private sector under the lead of the “Chambre de commerce, industrie et artisanat” with the objective to inform non governmental organizations, the civil society and the donors about the context for the development of the PRSP, the partial results reached and the justification of its revision. The revision process of the PRSP was basically meant to :

1. Analyse the relevance of the objectives of PRSP as compared to the results achieved and the new measurement of poverty incidence;
2. Examine the relevance of the widening of priority sectors and the readjustment of the elements of the strategy;
3. Regionalise the PRSP;
4. Ensure a greater involvement of the private sector and the civil society.

During the PRSP revision process in 2003, in addition to the latitude which was left to the donors to take an active part in the process, the Government organised several exchange and briefings with the donors (TFP) throughout the process. These meetings made it possible to share the timeline of the revision process of the PRSP and the conclusions of

the regional consultations. They also made it possible to record the various views on the institutional monitoring tools of the implementation of the PRSP and on the nature of the monitoring indicators. Sweden took an active part in this process within co-ordination groups as well as at the level of the Joint Budget Support Group of the PRSP (SBC-CSLP) and at the level of sector-related organisations (PDDEB, PADS, FEER).

Like the document prepared in 2000, the revised version of the PRSP was presented to the Parliament by the Minister of economy and development. This step was important as it is the Parliament that approves the budget of the State, the instrument that makes the PRSP operational.

In July, the organisations of the civil society initiated a three day forum to allow a better internalisation of the PRSP and a more constructive contribution to the revision process and its implementation. At the end of the forum, they unanimously adopted a significant declaration on the PRSP.

The partnership between the government, donors and civil society is based on a national and effective leadership. Once there is an agreement on the general objectives, donors leave the Government to choose instruments of its policy as well as the rhythm and the sequence of the reforms. The effective application of the programme-based approach and the progressive development from project assistance to the budgetary assistance constitutes key elements to the improvement of the co-ordination of the intervening parties. The National consultations on the revised PRSP were actually held in October 2003.

As mentioned above, the country has implemented its first PRSP, and its assessment was made in 2003. To support its development and poverty reduction policy, the Government has developed other planning tools or adhered to several international commitments such as: Programme Based Budget, Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, the National Prospective Study "Burkina 2025", the Public Investment Programme, the Sector Programme Approach, the NEPAD, the Millennium Development Goals, etc.

2.1 Poverty Reduction: General trends and prospects

In general, the country's economic growth was neither constant nor sufficient over the period to achieve a reduction of poverty. On the contrary, the results of the three household surveys, carried out by the Government in 1994, 1998 and 2003 revealed an increase in poverty incidence. Based on a poverty line of 82 672 CFA in 2003 against 72 690 F CFA per adult and per annum in 1998, the proportion of the poor increased by 1.1% from 45,3% to 46,4%. Compared to 1994, the poverty has increased 2%. The indices related to the depth and severity of poverty has slightly improved indicating that the poor have moved further from the poverty line.

The results of the third survey on households' living conditions, confirm the tendency to impoverishment of the urban populations. The incidence of urban poverty practically doubled between 1994 and 2003 passing from 10,4% to 19,9%. However, poverty remains a rural phenomenon as the proportion of the rural area (despite a slight decrease) remains significant, 92,2% in 2003 against 96,2% in 1994. This situation of poverty, which affects about half the population, explains the weak-

ness of the human development level of the country. The indicator of human development was 0,330 in 2001 against 0,468 for the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, whereas it was 0,313 in 1995.

The results of the three-year programme of the PRSP have been limited as confirmed by the Burkinabé survey on households' living conditions. Development in Burkina Faso over the two last decades shows structural and institutional constraints which prevent growth. These constraints need to be identified and addressed to put in place the necessary conditions and an environment for quality growth.

2.1.1 Social development

The promotion of basic social sectors constitutes the cornerstone of Burkina Faso's development strategy. Indeed, 16 to 19% of the national resources and the public support to development are devoted to these services. However, the country still suffers from a low level of human development leading to low labour productivity in particular in the agricultural sector which is the source of employment and income for about 80% of the active population.

The overall school enrolment rate in primary education was 44,1% (38,2% for girls) for the school year 2002–2003 against 41% (35% for girls) in 1998–1999. Despite this slight progress, this rate remains one of the weakest of the sub-region, due to the inefficient education system. The school enrolment rate in primary school in 2003 (33,8%) remained identical to the one of 1994 (33,7%). The literacy rate has also increased slightly from 18,9% in 1994 to 21,8% in 2003 (from 11,4% to 15,4% for women).

In the health sector, morbidity and mortality rates are very high. According to the results of the general population census of 1996, the general death rate was about 14,8‰ and infant mortality was 105,3‰. As for maternal mortality, it is 484 per 100 000 live births according to the social and health survey of 1998. This situation is due to infectious and parasitic diseases and the expansion of HIV. This pandemic is a major public health concern and especially a development issue as it affects all productive sectors. Half a million people live with HIV/AIDS today. HIV prevalence among people from 15 to 49 years old, despite a slight decrease, (6,5% in 2003 against 7,17% in 1997) remains very alarming. With regard to the increased number of HIV-related deaths, life expectancy in Burkina Faso will be affected if energetic and effective actions are not undertaken.

The overall nutritional status of the population is not satisfactory. The coverage level of the nutritional needs is still below the required standard of 2500 Kcal. Food insecurity is due to the extreme poverty, the unequal repartition of production, the landlockness and insufficient operation of markets. The children and the women are the most affected: 44,5% of the children from 0 to 5 years have a stunted growth and 13% of reproductive age women suffer from chronic malnutrition.

Some improvements have been noticed as far as drinking water supply is concerned. The overall proportion of households having access to boreholes increased from 31% in 1998 to 40,4% in 2003 and 37,9% to 48,8% for rural areas. However, this is still insufficient to cover all the needs for urban and rural communities.

Lastly, the women who account for approximately 52% of the total population are not sufficiently involved in political activities due to social and cultural constraints. In 2003, the Burkinabé over 15 years knowing to read and write, was estimated at 22% including 29,4% for the men and 12,5% for the women. Women receive very little assistance when it comes to procreation. In 1998, only 32% of deliveries were assisted by qualified health staff, 58% of pregnant women attended prenatal care and contraceptive prevalence was very weak (10,2%). However these statistics hide enormous disparities between the more favoured urban and rural areas.

2.1.2 Progress in Burkina Faso towards the achievement of the objectives of the millennium goals

1. To eliminate extreme poverty and hunger

The growth and the economic policies were not very favourable to the poor during the period 1990–2000. Poverty incidence has increased from 44,5% in 1994 to 45,3% in 1998 and 46,4% in 2003. However, there are some potential to reduce the number of persons living below absolute poverty line, even if the trend shows that millions of Burkinabè will continue to live in poverty (incidence of about 50% in 2015). The significant results recorded in terms of structural reforms (in particular in the rural sector) and the good macro-economics results (5% in 1998–2002 and 6.5% in 2003) forecast chances of poverty reduction.

2. To ensure primary education for all

The objectives of universal schooling will probably not be reached by 2015 despite the significant progress registered (42% of improvement during the period 1990–2000). The overall school enrolment rate (30% in 1990 and 42,7% in 2000) would probably be 56% in 2010 (as compared to the national objective of 70%). Even with the assumption of an achievement of the national objective in 2010, that is to say a progression of 2,7 points per annum, the level of schooling will be around 83,5% in 2015. This means that we would have to wait until the year 2021 to achieve the objective of universal education.

Concerning the functional literacy rate (for 15–24 year old), the country is still lagging behind (18,4% in 1998 and 21,8% in 2003). The national objective of 40% in 2010 will probably not be reached. The literacy rate will probably reach 30,5% in 2015 and it would be necessary to wait until 2034 to achieve the national goal of 40%.

3. To promote gender equality and women autonomy

There is no hope to achieve gender equality in primary education before 2005, the ratio girls/boys having passed from 0,62 in 1990 to 0,74 in 2000 and 0,76 in 2003. Even if slight progress is noticed, there still is a very long way to go. The ratio would probably be 0,78 in 2005 and it would take 22 additional years of efforts (that is to say in 2025) to reach a gender balance.

In secondary education, the progress achieved is still insufficient to meet the goal in 2005, the ratio girls/boys having passed from 0,52 in 1990 to 0,62 in 2000 and 0,81 in 2003. The gap to fill would be less wide than in primary education because of the encouraging efforts recorded

during the period 1990–2003. It would be necessary to wait for about 9 years (that is to say in 2012) to hope to achieve the goal of gender equality.

4. To reduce by two thirds the mortality among children under five

The results achieved in comparison with the objective of reduction by two thirds of infant mortality rate seem to be insufficient to change the trends. Indeed, the infant mortality rate increased from 94‰ in 1993 to 105,3‰ in 1998. With regard to the trends, it is likely that the international objective of 38,2‰ for 2015 will not be achieved despite the implementation of significant programmes for malaria control, immunisation and epidemiological monitoring.

5. To reduce maternal mortality by three quarter

Maternal mortality keeps on decreasing in health centres. Maternal mortality rate curbed down from 566 deaths of 100 000 live births in 1993 to 484 deaths in 1998, i.e. reduction by 14,5% in 5 years. If these efforts are constant, the levels of reduction, as compared to 1998, could reach 50% in 2015 (i.e. 283 deaths for 100 000 alive births) and approach the development objective of the millennium goals applied to Burkina Faso which is 142 deaths for 100 000 alive births.

With regard to reproductive health, the objective will probably not be achieved. The Health and Demography Study (EDS, 1993) revealed a contraceptive prevalence of 17% in urban environment and 1,5% in rural zones. In 1998, this rate had reached respectively 20% and 3% approximately. In 2001, only 13% of women used at least one contraceptive method. These results are clearly below the expectations of the Burkinabè Government since the national objectives were to reach in 2000 (compared to the level of 1993) an adoption rate of 32% of modern contraceptive methods in urban areas and 9% in rural zones, i.e. 12 and 7,5 percentage points less than the expectations.

6. To fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

The efforts of the authorities to intensify the prevention and to promote behavioural changes concerning HIV/AIDS seem to give encouraging results, which however are insufficient to reverse tendencies. The prevalence rate would be about 6,5% in 2003 against 7,17% in 1997. If the current trend continues and the actual rate of demographic growth (2,37% per annum) is stable, Burkina Faso would still have a significant number of HIV positive people in 2010 (rate of 2,7%). It is probably not until 2015, that the results will be convincing (rate of prevalence of 0,6).

Malaria remains an endemic disease in Burkina Faso. It is the most common cause of mortality among children under five. In 2000, the death rate due to this infection was 292 deaths for 100 000 inhabitants. As for tuberculosis, the efforts continue with the definition of standards as regards diagnosis capacity and treatment of opportunist infections at all levels of the health system. About 2500 cases of tuberculosis were detected in 2001 with 1600 cases of positive frottis, i.e. 64%. Guinea worm is decreasing. In fact, the cases of Guinea worm decreased by 47,3% i.e. from 1956 in 2000 to 1031 in 2001. Besides, other fatal epidemics such as meningitis, measles and cholera are persisting.

7. To ensure a sustainable environment

The authorities of Burkina Faso integrate the principles of sustainable development in their national policies and have specific sub-sectors programmes which are likely to accelerate the protection and the rational management of the natural resources. These are: National Programme for Land Management; Forest Programme; National Programme against Desertification; Integrated Programme for Water Management, National Communication Initiative for Climatic Commitments; National Action Plan on Biological Diversity, the National Strategy for Sustainable Development. The Letter of Policy of Decentralised Rural Development was adopted to be used as a reference and harmonisation framework for the various programmes towards achieving sustainable development.

With regard to the access to drinking water, 42% of the households were supplied with water from protected wells and boreholes in 1998 against 41% in 1994. Between 1998 and 2003, the proportion of the households using boreholes increased by 31,2% to the detriment of those drinking water from rivers (-56,7%). These results are rather encouraging and are results of the hydraulic infrastructures being put in place in Burkina Faso. The continuation of the current tendencies will make it possible to largely meet the real needs of drinking water for more than 70% of the population by 2015.

8. To set up a global partnership for development

Burkina Faso benefited from debt reduction within the framework of the initiative for highly indebted poor countries (HIPC). The application of the decisions should result, over the period 2000–2017, in the release of resources of an amount of 829 million dollar (actual value) to cover the primary needs for the country as regards social development.

With regard to the public aid for development, the country receives around 400 million dollar on an annual basis. This contribution comes from more than fifty bilateral and multilateral donors funding more than 500 social and economic projects and programmes.

2.1.3 Performance of the other national reform programmes.

Significant progress has been registered with the regular organisation of multiparty elections at legislative and municipal level. The deepening of the democratic culture has been supported via a permanent dialogue between various political and social forces. This dialogue has been accompanied by an increase in the press freedom, framed by a new code of more open information and a policy of communication for development. Efforts in the field of human rights promotion has resulted in the creation of a ministry for human rights in 2002 and the definition of a human rights action plan.

However, access to justice remains a priority to facilitate the business environment and to promote democracy. The National Action Plan for the Reform of Justice attempts to put in place an independent justice close to the citizens. To this end, the Supreme Court was transformed into four autonomous higher jurisdictions (Council of State, Court of Auditors, Supreme Court of Appeal and Constitutional Council). A new status for the magistrates was adopted to guarantee the full independence of justice by making this body non political. Nevertheless, the low

number of the lower jurisdictions (courts of first instance) and the insufficiencies of capacities at all level limit the effectiveness of the judiciary system.

2.1.4 The HIV/AIDS situation

The importance and the complexity of the problems of HIV/AIDS show that the epidemic is not only a problem of public health but also as a development issue. The effects of HIV/AIDS on all economic and social sectors are visible. In farming, for example, the effects appear in the form of a successive weakening and a reduction of the agricultural labour force and the reduction of the financial resources. In addition, the financial transfer from migrants which has been considerable (40 to 45 billion F CFA on average per annum from 1990 to 1999) has diminished because of AIDS and this has not been without repercussion in the rural areas. The impact of HIV/AIDS is increasingly visible on the labour force, the level of income, the wellbeing of households and on the production structures of the economy.

The stabilisation of the HIV infection in Burkina Faso is probably due to the activities undertaken for HIV/AIDS control with the implementation of short and medium term action plans as well as the implementation of a multi-sector approach. Among the activities undertaken are:

- numerous information campaigns, education and communication campaigns supported by the promotion of communication for behavioural changes in all provinces;
- voluntary and confidential detection campaigns with focus on young people
- improvement of the treatment of HIV positive patients with ARV and especially the treatment of the opportunist infections;
- promotion of prevention means including condom use, abstinence and faithfulness;
- treatment of sexually transmitted diseases in all health centres thus preventing HIV infection;
- blood safety in hospitals and other health care structures;
- beginning of the national programme for the prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child.

The situation of orphans is worsening as their number increased in an exponential way. The UNAIDS estimates that there is about 350 000 orphans and that 20 000 children were infected by HIV/AIDS in 2002. The proportion of the households sheltering AIDS orphans is estimated at 42% in rural areas and more than 45% in the urban areas according to a study carried out in 2001.

It is fundamental to continue with prevention actions to reduce HIV related risks within communities. However, the achievement of the objectives is dependent on the level of capacity of the actors and the structures carrying out their actions. It is also essential to reinforce the technical capacities and skills of the various actors.

A particular emphasis is currently laid on the reinforcement of the capacity of treatment of patients by medical institutions and the involve-

ment of associations having medical staff. Moreover, with support from partners, efforts are made to improve the financial and geographical accessibility of appropriate health care for the majority of the population.

On the community level, the strategy to involve traditional and religious leaders will help to reduce socio-cultural constraints preventing behavioural change in communities. The speeding up of the decentralisation process through the setting up of village committees for AIDS control, will also help to cover the maximum of villages and lead to the development of village micro-projects for AIDS control.

2.1.5 National Budget: policy and priorities

In 2003, the budget revenue increased by 14% and reached 295,8 billion F CFA, i.e. a surplus of 4,1 billion F CFA compared to the objectives. This is due to the increase in internal income from taxes. Foreign aid increased by 22,9% and reached 145,8 billion CFA in 2003 i.e. 6,2% of the GDP against 5,7% in 2002.

Revenues over the period 2004 to 2006, will show an average growth of 13,7% which should be carried out thanks to the support of external partners in the form of aid, and on the other hand, by internal efforts to mobilise revenues from taxes. The revenues from taxes could increase by an average of 14,3% per year to reach 12,5% of GDP in 2003 to 14% in 2006.

The actions of development should exhibit an increase in the total level of expenditures and especially the capital expenditure. Projections of the capital expenditure are based on an average increase of 36,8% with self-funded expenditures, budget assistance and a continuous decrease of 8,7% in the loans between 2004 and 2006. Besides, the policy of reorientation of the public expenditure of investments in relation to production sectors will be considered. The capital expenditure would increase by 20,2% on average over the period 2004–2006, due mainly to an increasingly large participation of the State (revenues from taxes) in the funding of public investments, which represent about 46,1%, 59,8% and 64,8% of the GDP for 2004, 2005 respectively.

2.2 Macro-economic development

The economic growth has improved in 2003 with a rate of 6,5% against 4,6% in 2002, resulting from a good harvest and the capacity of adaptation of the economy which made it possible to cope with the consequences of the Ivorian crisis. The average annual inflation rate was brought down to 1,7% in 2003, against 2,3% in 2002.

The implementation of the state's financial transactions was balanced in 2003 by an increase in the total deficit of 6,2% against 5,1% in 2002, because of the strong increase in the expenditure and net loans, compared to the incomes.

There was a deterioration in the current balance, which deficit, except aid, passed from 12,8% of the GDP in 2002 to 13,9% in 2003. In spite of the increase in cotton exports, this decrease resulted from the overcosts of the import goods and services, related mainly to the diversion of the traffic of goods from the Abidjan harbour towards other harbours in the sub-region.

2.2.1 Economic development in 2003

The economic activity increased in all the sectors; with an aggregate growth rate of 6,5% against 4,6% in 2002.

The growth of the primary sector was 11,0% against 1,7% in 2002, due to:

- the increase of the cereal production, cotton production and breeding by respectively 14,8%, 23,2% and 10,9%;
- improved access to water and better agricultural production due to the success of the programme “Operation Saaga” that made it possible to provoke rains artificially.
- the increase of revenue and support to cotton producers;
- control of the costs of agricultural seeds and the promotion of small irrigation.

The livestock sector has improved by reorienting the cattle exports to countries such as Ghana and Nigeria instead of Côte d’Ivoire. The political unrest in Côte d’Ivoire with the division of the country between the North and the South did not allow transport of the cattle to many areas.

The growth of the secondary sector was 9,7% against 8,2% in 2002. This was the result of the increase of 11,4% of the production of electricity and 10,5% of the production of manufacturing industries, whose performance would be related to the good cotton harvests of this year.

The progression of the activities in the transport sector would be explained by the increasing improvement of road infrastructures. Also, the tertiary sector registered a growth of 5,3% in 2003 against 4,9% in 2002, mainly due to trading activities and transport.

Consumption was the main growth engine. It was stimulated by the private component, which increased by 15,8% in 2003 against 3,7% in 2002, in connection with the increase in households’ income due to the good results of the two last crop years.

In nominal terms, the overall rate of internal saving decreased from 10,7% against 11,3% in 2002, because of the rise in consumption. The investment rate was at a level of 25% due to the dynamism of the private sector.

In 2003, the average annual inflation rate was 1,7% against 2,3% in 2002. This control of inflation is due to a decrease in the prices of goods and the regular supply of the markets with grains (after the surplus harvested over the two last years).

In 2003, the budget revenue increased by 14,0% to reach 295,8 billion F CFA, i.e. a surplus of 4,1 billion F CFA as compared to the objectives. These represented 12,6% of the GDP against 12,4% in 2002. This improvement is due to the rise in internal revenues from taxes, in particular the taxation of goods and services. The effort of tax collection was intensified due to more rigorous examination of all exemptions, improved verification of invoices and the fiscal recoveries.

Foreign aid increased by 22,9% to reach 145,8 billion F CFA in 2003 i.e. 6,2% of the GDP against 5,7% in 2002. The total expenditures increased by 15,2% to reach 561,8 billion F CFA. In 2003, they represented 24,0% of the GDP against 23,3% in 2002.

On the whole, the total deficit before aid worsened to represent in 2003, 12,4% of the GDP against 10,8% in 2002. In the same way, the total deficit passed from 5,1% of the GDP in 2002 to 6,2% in 2003 despite an increase in foreign aid.

The national debt was 44,8% of GDP in 2003 against 53,8% in 2002. The external service of the national debt, as a ratio of the revenue was 14,2% in 2003 against 15,5% in 2002. These results are obtained because Burkina Faso reached the point of completion of the HIPC Initiative in April 2003.

The balance of payments recorded a surplus of 12,2 billion F CFA in 2003 against 10,3 billion F CFA in 2002. This evolution would be primarily related to the slight decrease in the current external deficit, attenuated by the reduction of the surplus of the stock account and financial transactions.

The current deficit was reduced by 6,6 billion F CFA to reach 207, 9 billion F CFA in 2003, against 214,5 billion F CFA in 2002. The slight improvement of the current deficit was due to the doubling of the surplus of the public current transfers (+63,9 billion F CFA). This is a moderated result worsened by the increase in trade deficit (-37,9 billion F CFA) and of the services net (-11,3 billion F CFA), as well as the decrease in private transfers.

2.2.2 The situation of economic and tax reforms, the system of public finances

As regards economic governance, the Government undertook during the period 2000–2002, with the support of its partners, a series of actions to reinforce the instruments of current and operational management of the economy and the corruption control.

A prospective reflection has started within the framework the study “Burkina 2025” in order to have a long-term vision of the evolution of the Burkinabé society and consequently to better define development strategies. The first results of the study helped, from a retrospective review of the political, economic and social life, to identify the main trends, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and signs of changes. In addition, the survey of the national aspirations made some recommendations to address the constraints related to the monitoring and an effective application of the policies and programmes against poverty.

In the field of current and operational management of the economy, the Government has improved its planning and budgetary monitoring tools. The development of the State Budget has been improved with the use of the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, which makes it possible to reflect with more coherence, the priorities of the PRSP in the finance bill. The search for more effectiveness in public expenditure was also a constant concern, which resulted in the review of public expenditure in the priority sectors of education, health, infrastructure and rural development. The implementation of the recommendations of these reviews allowed more consequent budgetary allocations as well as the improvement of the implementation of the sector budgets.

In addition to the effectiveness of the public expenditure, the Government is trying to increase budgetary transparency and accountability in its management. The Account Chamber, set up in an operational Court

in July 2002, was asked to review the bills of payment of the budgets of 1995 to 2000. Efforts were also made towards the decentralisation of budgetary implementation to priority ministries.

The framework of public management has significantly improved since 2000. This improvement is due to the introduction of the new system of evaluation based on merit and the setting up of planning tools of administration (letters of missions, contracts of objectives, activity programmes, planning instruments, management report, etc).

Concerning the fight against corruption, the Government reinforced the institutional tools against fraud and corruption with the creation of an Ethics Committee in 2001 and the High Authority of Co-ordination of the Fight against Corruption in 2002. This was done in order to better sensitise communities and to co-ordinate all initiatives towards corruption control.

Within this framework, it is worth noting the emergence of a national network against corruption, which has been initiated by the civil society to support the government's efforts.

2.3 Political development, good governance and human rights

2.3.1 General trends regarding national policy

In 2003, the president Blaise Compaoré regained some popularity after firmly having condemned the behaviour of president Gbagbo when the latter accused Burkina Faso of supporting the rebels in Northern Côte d'Ivoire and also for the cruel treatment of Burkinabé immigrants in Côte d'Ivoire. Among other political events can be mentioned the launching of the revision process of the PRSP, the lack of dynamism of the opposition and the supposed attempt of a coup d'état, announced in October 2003.

The social and political picture of Burkina went on degrading and the dynamism of alternation which was the hope after the 2002 legislative elections, has faded. The opposition is torn apart, thus weakening, whereas it was building a strong alternative coalition after its legislative success in 2002, under the direction of Mr. Hermann Yaméogo, the former president of ADF-RDA (the second party in the Parliament after the CDP). With the division within ADF-RDA, which resulted in the ousting of Mr. Yaméogo, who later on created a new party, the UNDD (July). He is now working hard to establish his party on the ground with the support from some of the representatives who remained faithful to him. With the lethargy affecting PDP/PS directed by the old leader Prof. Ki-Zerbo, who is not willing to give up his leader seat to someone else, the Burkinabé opposition today looks like a boat without a ruder, without a leader capable to build a credible alternative to president Compaoré.

President Compaoré, on the other hand, seems to have reinforced his position. Indeed, weakened by three years of internal socio-political crisis, he took advantage of the Ivorian crisis and its dramatic consequences, to regain the support of the majority of the national opinion, shocked by the bad treatment of the Burkinabé immigrants in Côte d'Ivoire. Meanwhile, president Compaoré is wrongly or rightly accused by the authorities in Abidjan (and certain analysts) to support the rebellion in Northern Côte d'Ivoire.

Anyway, in the view of the progress achieved in the country's democratisation process, the normalisation of relations with the Côte d'Ivoire with the opening of terrestrial borders between both countries and the visits paid by the the minister of State, Salif Diallo, president Compaoré's right-hand man, in Abidjan, it was thought that the time of coups d'état was over in Burkina Faso.

This is the reason why the national and international opinion heard with surprise, from the Attorney General of the Court of Appeal and the military Tribunal of Ouagadougou, that a coup d'état attempt involving Togo and Côte d'Ivoire had been avoided. The two countries were not officially named, but according to the Attorney General, captain Ouali, the main leader of the coup, had close contacts in these two countries. Even if it is true that the recent political events in Africa show that the coups d'état have not disappeared from the continent despite the declaration of Algiers in 1993 by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the constitutive Act of the African Union condemning the coups d'état, the economic, social and political context in Burkina Faso, can not give a valid pretext to justify a violent change of the regime in place.

Apart from questions related to the long detention of the persons accused, the police and the lawyers have shown professionalism and compliance with the rules in a constitutional state in dealing with these cases. However, this situation has negatively affected the relations between the government and the opposition and is likely to compromise the social stability which is necessary when organizing the local and presidential elections in 2005.

At the end of 2003 the debate started in connection with a possible candidature of Blaise Compaoré for the presidential election of 2005. The article 37 of the revised constitution (April 2000), states that : "the president of Faso is elected for five years by universal, direct, equal and secret suffrage. He can be re-elected only once". As Blaise Compaoré is already in his second mandate, some people say that he cannot take part in the presidential elections again. Others think this law is not retroactive and that he can therefore run the 2005 elections without being in contradiction with the constitution.

2.3.2 General trends in foreign politics

The foreign policy during 2003 was characterised by a will to improve Burkina Faso's image after some years during which the country's policy has been questioned by the international community. The most important regional issue during the year has been the tense relations with the Ivory Coast. At the end of April, an official delegation of Côte d'Ivoire was received by the President of Faso. The agenda of the meeting included the possibility to open the border between the two countries again and the resumption of the railroad activities. The same day, the Burkinabè Minister of security made public an official declaration prohibiting all demonstrations by the Burkina section of the Patriotic Movement of Côte d'Ivoire (PMCI) which previously made declarations in the press.

2.3.3 Risks for internal or external conflicts.

Even if Burkina Faso is seen as a relatively stable country, there are several factors that can generate conflicts. The first risk is the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire and the supposed implication of Burkina Faso. The last trends of restoring of calm in Côte d'Ivoire together with the probability of sending a U.N. peacekeeping corps, reinforced the movement towards a normalisation of the situation. This will also have a positive effect on Burkina Faso. There are also latent internal risk factors like increased poverty, the circulation of weapons, the economic difficulties and a lack of dialogue and communication between the authorities and the public which can lead to insecurity with the same the effects as a conflict.

2.3.4 Governance reforms

Burkina Faso is implementing its first phase of the national plan of good governance. The reforms taking place concern political governance (executive, legislative and judiciary power), local governance, administrative governance and economic governance. At the institutional level, several structures have been installed by the Burkinabé Government to contribute to governance. These are:

- the Economic and Social Council;
- the Mediator of Faso;
- the Higher Council of Information;
- the National Committee of Ethics;
- the Independent National Electoral Commission;
- the High Authority of Coordination of Fight against Corruption;
- the General Inspection of the State;
- Multi-Sectarian Technical Inspections.

2.3.5 Corruption and measures taken by the government.

Since the events of October 1987, the return to a modern constitutional state and the progressive passage to a political democracy, constitute the main objectives with regard to the organisation of public life. In the current phase of construction and reinforcement of the constitutional state, the fight against corruption is based on good governance principles. The institutions for corruption control are certainly old in Burkina Faso (for example General Inspection of State, technical inspections of the various government departments), but new structures have recently been created, in particular in 2001 with the National Committee of Ethics and the High Authority of Co-ordination of Corruption Control. Moreover, under the current head of State, the political good-will to fight against corruption was expressed through the National Plan of Good Governance (PNBG) and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) in its fourth axis which aims at promoting good governance.

The report produced by the National Group of Reflection, DHD, contributes to the reinforcement of good governance for a better “Sustainable Human Development”, based on the analysis of the institutions for corruption control and their correct functioning. To allow a better knowledge of the institutions, to be able to question their effectiveness and to understand the role of the civil society in a strategy for corruption

control, a list of structures, regulations and mechanisms of control, installed over the last years, has been developed.

On the civil society level, the REN-LAC network is a very active structure when it comes to analysing and revealing corruption acts and trends. In addition to sensitising communities, REN-LAC presents each year a report of the state of corruption in Burkina Faso. In its last report, REN-LAC reveals that Burkina Faso is a country where corruption practices are increasing. The same conclusions appear in the 2003 UNDP report on the human development in Burkina Faso.

2.3.6 Situation of human rights.

As compared to last year, the situation of justice and security for citizens in Burkina Faso has not improved in 2003 due among other things to the circulation of the light weapons in the sub-region further to the conflicts in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone. There is an increased tendency of violent and armed crimes. Armed bandit groups are terrorising urban and rural communities. Bandits often attack conveyors and take their properties. A national plan against insecurity was prepared and presented by the ministry for security for adoption by the Parliament in 2003. The police was requested by the ministry for security, to take strong and radical measures against the criminal bands. However, some criminals are better equipped than the police force and can therefore escape in most confrontations.

Among the judgements broadcast by the media during the year, is the verdict concerning of the assassination of Monique Meyer, judged by the criminal chamber of the Court of Appeal of Ouagadougou. The two accused were sentenced to death. It is the first death sentence since 1978. The verdict has not yet been carried out.

During the year, there have been at least 2 cases where people in detention died. In June, the authorities arrested the preacher Mor Alim Kaboré and 3 other people, for attempting to swindle the Head of State. The preacher Kaboré died two days later at the hospital. In October, the sergeant Moussa Kaboré, one of the supposed leader of the supposed attempt of coup d'état, hanged himself in his cell at the police headquarters in Ouagadougou.

The problem of impunity persists. The legal lawsuit concerning the Norbert Zongo's affair is proceeding very slowly. One can even say that the situation is blocked. In December, the 5th anniversary of the assassination of Norbert Zongo and his companions was celebrated, but there is still no hope for an immediate solution of the case. The increased economic corruption and the lack of sanctions against the authors, are other signs of persisting impunity.

Justice reforms led to the transformation of the Supreme Court into four autonomous jurisdictions: The Council of State, the Constitutional Council, Court of Auditors and Supreme Court of Appeal. These reforms reinforced the legal system and its independence at central level, but the main objective remains, namely to reinforce the proximity of the legal system for a faster and a more effective handling of the legal cases.

Concerning the freedom of expression, there is a lack of confidence of journalists with respect to authorities. This lack of confidence is seen through the fact that journalists often publish significant articles under

pseudonyms. An example of vigilance of the authorities is the hearing of the director of publication of the “Independent”, by the Higher Council of Information (HCI) against two articles published in the newspaper and related to Monique Meyer’s case and to the crisis in Côte d’Ivoire.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that despite the creation of a Ministry for the Promotion of the Human Rights, the situation is not the best one. However, the positive aspect is the existence of a reinforced and active civil society that denounces problems with a view to create a more positive social environment.

2.4 Co-operation for development and partnership

In 2003, the general trends of the governmental politics with regard to development concerned the improvement of public finances and legal environment, the increase in the agro-pastoral production and the fight against environmental pollution in order to reach a development directed towards the poverty reduction. The contribution of the donors is requested through a poverty reduction strategic plan in harmony with sector-related programmes and specific projects.

In compliance with the monitoring – evaluation of the PRSP implementation, the Government carried out an annual review in July 2003. In addition to participating in this meeting, the partners transmitted in August 2003, a memorandum on their joint appreciation on the implementation of the triennial programme of the PRSP (2000–2002). The partners considered that this review made it possible to deal with the technical, sector-related and institutional aspects raised by the implementation of the PRSP and to have a fruitful dialogue with the government. This is due to the mobilisation of leaders and executives of the administration as well as the sincerity and the transparency that characterised debates, in particular the sessions of the sector-related groups. Besides, partners co-ordinate interventions through sector programmes in which they finance actions through a mechanism of common funds such as the financing of PDDEB. The partners were invited by the Government to take part in the formulation of its programme with the IMF. The review of the PRSP which started in May 2003 with regional workshops and ended in October 2003 with national consultations was also an excellent opportunity for partnership relations directed by the Government.

A close co-ordination has been established with all donors. Beyond the usual information exchanges, regular consultations were held, in particular during the missions and especially during those of WB/IMF and the European Union. Joint actions have been conducted, in particular concerning the Country Financial Accountability Assessment, CFAA. Moreover, the European Union and bilateral donors who provide budget support (Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland), subscribed to the SBC-CSLP (Joint Budget Support Group-PRSP) protocol of intention, which goes beyond the consultation and tends towards an harmonisation of interventions. The European Union also takes part in the review of sub – sector programmes within the framework of the funding of specific projects. The EU strategy of co-operation with Burkina Faso via the 9:th EDF, which defines the best support to poverty reduction being not targeted budgetary support, was established

in collaboration and agreement with the member states, represented in Burkina Faso. Trading activities between Burkina Faso and the member states of the European Union, accounts for 36% as of its exports (67 Million EURO) and 43% of its imports (223 Million EURO).

In 2003, the budget support rose to approximately 120 million \$ US in relation to an overall public aid to development of about 400 million per year. The importance of this co-operation, beyond being a government choice, is that it is the result achieved after several economic, financial and political reforms. These financial resources which release the budget of the State, should not block the efforts of the Government to cover more permanent internal income. Thus, the government involved itself during the year 2003, to look into the possibilities of setting up a computerised system to be able to collect information from the different sources of revenues, based on the example of the existing system for expenditure control. The monitoring/evaluation of the non-targeted budget support require an effective tool, a transparent management of the public finances and an efficient definition of the development policies and programmes. This is what the Burkinabé Government maintains with support from the international community through the implementation of several instruments such as budget-programme, the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, the Plan of Reinforcement of the Budgetary Control, the Statistical National Programme, Public Expenditure Reviews, PNBG, etc.

3. Swedish co-operation for development

3.1 Strategic appreciation and considerations

The Swedish Government has not yet approved the proposed strategy of co-operation between Sweden and Burkina Faso. The document was presented to the Swedish Government in December 2003 and its decision is awaited in April 2004. The majority of the studies and the development of the strategy were carried out during the year 2003.

The limited Swedish presence in Burkina Faso makes it difficult to maintain a high level political dialogue. However, the development cooperation has evolved into a constructive partnership in which several Swedish concerns regarding development have been expressed and discussed.

Sweden is emphasizing particularly the following questions:

- the importance of the respect of human rights and democracy, especially women and girls' rights,
- the significant role of Burkina Faso concerning peace and stability in West Africa,
- the importance of eliminating the obstacles to participation of the poor in the economy through improving productivity and accelerating the creation of job opportunities
- the need to fight against HIV/AIDS.

3.2 General review of the programme of co-operation with Burkina Faso

The Swedish co-operation in Burkina Faso is very recent. Sweden has only been present in the country since 2001. For this reason, the co-operation does not have any old commitments to honour, initiated and conceived in another context of development in Burkina Faso than the current one. This gives Sweden an opportunity to be in phase with the current development trends.

The strategy, which will cover the period 2004–2006, is ambitious in its contents, even if the intention when elaborating the strategy was to concentrate the Swedish commitments to a limited number of sectors. The number the staff in the co-operation office in Burkina Faso will

remain limited for the period of the strategy, although it will increase by two sent out staff in 2004. A close co-operation with the other donors and institutions/organisations, bilateral and multilateral, having the same point of view as Sweden, will however, enables the office to have enough information for an effective assessment of the conditions of the co-operation. The Swedish strategy gives a priority to a programme approach and/or sector-related support.

3.2.1 Programmes of co-operation

3.2.1.1 Budget support

Sweden's budget support to the PRSP for 2003, the third consecutive year of budget support, was disbursed in November 2003, with an amount of 40 000 000 SEK. The Burkina Government was committed to make efforts to meet the conditions of disbursements in order to profit from support much earlier during the year.

In 2003, after having thoroughly assessed the progress made during the period 2000–2002, the Government started a process with a wide participation concerning the development of the PRSP for the period 2000–2015. The revised PRSP adopted in October 2003 is supplemented by a priority action plan covering the period 2004–2006. A new monitoring tool for the PRSP was adopted in 2003.

The donor coordination group (SBC-CSLP) was joined by France in the autumn. The revision of SBC-CSLP general agreement was also made to ensure the adherence of the World Bank and the African Bank of Development. All these efforts in combination with a good rainfall in 2003, made it possible to reach a GDP of 6,5% against 4,6 in 2002

3.2.1.2 Support of the basic education, higher education and research

Basic education

Education is a fundamental human right and a prerequisite to sustainable development, economic growth and poverty reduction. This explains why development partners involved in education, have committed themselves to support the ten-year plan for Basic education (PDDEB) which was officially launched in 2002. At the end of 2003, Sweden signed an agreement with the Burkina Government to support the PDDEB for two years, 2003–2004. The total amount agreed for the two years is 37 million SEK. In 2003, an instalment of 12,5 million SEK was disbursed. To monitor this programme, Sida has entered into a delegated partnership with the Netherlands, which together with Canada, is the leading country as far as basic education is concerned.

A support has been provided in 2003 to the NGO TIN-TUA associations Action plan 2002–2005 which focuses on the development of basic education with an innovative approach. This project is seen as a strategic one and well in line with the governmental programme in its will to modernise and make the basic education more effective. This support of 2,23 million SEK, is managed in collaboration with Diakonia.

Higher education and research project

Since the launching of the project “Collaborative research on the management of natural resources for the sustainable development of Burkina Faso” in September 2001, the Scientific and Technological

National Research Centre (CNRST), the University of Ouagadougou and the Polytechnic University of Bobo-Dioulasso have received a Swedish contribution to this programme. On the whole 15 PhD students are currently studying through this programme, 12 students registered in Swedish universities and 3 in the universities of Burkina Faso. The project also supports a female master student registered in Sweden. Initially planned to last from July 2001 to December 2003, Sida has agreed to prolong the duration of this agreement until June 30, 2004. A new of the program phase is under elaboration.

Communication and Information technologies (CIT) have become a vital tool for the whole scientific and academic community around the world. Burkina Faso is still lagging behind on the level of the development of this significant communication and information tool. Sida is, via SAREC, committed to finance a programme concerning the installation of equipment and data processing services that will meet the crucial CIT needs.

3.2.1.3 Health support

With the end of the Health and Nutrition Development Project (PDSN), the majority of the regions and health districts in Burkina Faso had problems to implement their annual action plans. In order to continue the financing of the action plans of the health districts and the regional departments and to capitalise and maintain the assets of the PDSN, a new programme “Project to Support the health Districts and the Regional Departments of Health” (PADS) has been designed. This programme which is elaborated within the framework of the triennial plan 2003–2005 of the National Plan of the development of the health sector (PNDS), can be considered as a transitory stage before the conditions are met for a direct support to the general action plan of the PNDS.

For the implementation of the PADS, the Netherlands and Sweden are the major donors. The contribution of Sweden to the project will be 31,5 million SEK during two years (2003–2004). A first instalment of 12,5 million was disbursed in October 2003. A memorandum of understanding between Sweden and the Netherlands, concerning the monitoring of the programme, is being developed.

3.2.1.4 Environmental support

The Government has declared a firm will to implement a mid and long term development strategy that aims at reducing poverty and improving the living conditions for people in rural areas. Means are being developed to empower local communities in order to enable them to make informed choices and make investments. There is some convergence between the various approaches used to achieve the goals, but much remains to be done to harmonise the actions for a greater efficiency.

During the year 2003, Sida collaborated in the implementation of three programmes concerning rural communities and the environment in Burkina Faso. One of the programmes is national and two others are sub-regional.

FEER II (Water and the Rural Equipment Funds) is a national programme under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture. In this programme the access to water is a starting point for other development

activities. This programme is financed in a partnership between Sweden, Switzerland and Belgium. At the beginning of the year, an external evaluation of the programme was carried out suggesting significant changes on FEER's structure and programme.

3.2.1.5 Support to democracy and rights human

A significant part of the Swedish co-operation strategy, is the support to the improvement of democracy and respect for the human rights in Burkina Faso.

To achieve this, Sida has a partnership with the Mediator of Faso. This institution, created in the image of "ombudsmannainstitutionen" in Sweden, is not only a monitoring tool for good administration, but also a monitoring tool for the good application of laws and the respect for human rights. The "Mediateur" does not have institutional or decision-making powers. In 2003 the contribution from Sida to the institution was 500 000 SEK.

Sida supports a programme via UNICEF, which concerns:

- fight against child trafficking, the worst forms of child labour and support of the children in need of special protection measures,
- communication for behavioural changes towards children and women,
- installation of a permanent data system concerning children and women.

The amount granted to this project for 2003 was 5 million SEK.

The collaboration with Diakonia concerning Human Rights continues. (*See the paragraph which relates to the activities of Diakonia in Burkina Faso*). The contribution to Diakonia in this area of actions was about 3 million SEK.

3.2.1.6 Private sector support

In this sector, Sida intends to support the development of the private sector in the agro-pastoral field, based on a sustainable development perspective. The interventions will focus on the processing of agricultural products. During the year, a discussion was held concerning a possible Swedish support to the transformation of the dairy products in Burkina Faso, but no final decision was made in 2003.

3.2.1.7 Support to the NGO

Diakonia is the only Swedish NGO represented in Burkina Faso and West Africa since 1987, where it carries out several programmes. The programmes implemented are related to:

- Democracy, Human rights, Women, Gender
- Rural Development
- Education
- Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)
- HIV/AIDS control and prevention
- Capacity building

In Burkina, in 2003, about thirty NGO's profited from Diakonia's support of a total amount of 7,9 million SEK.

In the field of rural development, Diakonia ensures support to many network organisations working with income generating activities, micro-credits, food safety and access to drinking water. Capacity building of village organisations is an important sector as well as the support to the process of decentralisation and citizen information.

Diakonia's holistic approach puts forward the mainstreaming advantage of the various supported programmes. The Democracy and Human Rights programme is centred, through national stakeholders, on advocacy, the reinforcement of freedom of expression, as well as the application and respect of legislation in favour of women, children or all other categories of the society not profiting from these basic rights.

Rural development cannot be effective without a minimum of training and education (e.g.: formal and non-formal). Therefore, the Diakonia education programme supports many organisations involved in the promotion and reinforcement of education, from literacy programmes to higher technical training. The Gender equity issue is an important part in all of Diakonia's programmes

Diakonia's priority programmes could not be possible and complete without a support to the civil society in its participation in the PRSP processes. The year 2004 started with the organisation of a Pan African conference of the civil society and their participation in the PRSP.

Finally, in order to address the various social emergencies due to the expansion of the pandemic diseases in Burkina Faso, Diakonia is currently developing its new mainstreaming approach on the themes of HIV/AIDS.

"Burkinas Vänner, Stockholm" (the Association of Friendship between Sweden and Burkina) has, with a financial support from Forum Syd, supported the construction and the functioning of a nursery school in a village in the centre of the country. The nursery school teachers are undergoing a three years training program led by a Swedish volunteer.

3.3 Short report on Sida support to significant sub-regional programmes involving Burkina Faso

3.3.1 Environment

CREPA

CREPA (Centre Régional pour l'Eau Potable et l'Assainissement à Faible Coût) is a network for development of techniques and methods concerning drinking water and sanitation, which includes 15 African countries, with its headquarters in Burkina Faso. CREPA organises training modules on water for private and official structures. The capacity building programme focuses on key technicians and people to promote methods for more efficient use of water and sustainable sanitation techniques at low cost. Sweden and Switzerland are financial partners of CREPA. Since August, a bilateral assistant expert (BBE) from Sweden works in a research project on ecological sanitation (ECOSAN) within the CREPA headquarters in Ouagadougou.

In order to help the Sahelian countries to reinforce their decentralisation process and sustainable management of natural resources, the arid regions programme of IIED, implements with financial support from

Sweden and Denmark, a collaboration programme entitled “To make decentralisation a success”. This programme is implemented in four countries including Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal.

Sida also gave its principle agreement to IUCN for the financing of a project aiming the monitoring and trans – border management of the river Volta basin concerning both Ghana and Burkina Faso. This project is supposed to prevent the risks of conflict between the two countries on the use of water resources.

ENDA/RUP Project

The main objective of this programme is to contribute to and to reinforce a better urban management with a participatory planning in order to reduce poverty. The specific objectives are capacity building of main stakeholders, decision-makers and technicians in cities, in order to set up a participatory process to produce tools to assist the decision-making process.

1. Capacity building concerns two main aspects:

- Participatory planning (diagnosis of given situations; elaboration, monitoring and evaluation of urban policies), with the development of tools that will help in decision-making (urban indicators, investigations of the level of satisfaction of the populations concerning the management of the city, capitalisation of experiments, analysis of the content of the press regarding urban problems, etc). The observations should allow decision makers to define local development plans and the implementation of these, based on specific indicators.
- Communication: observatories provide municipalities with the opportunity to broadcast on web sites (free of charge) relevant information, for example, to value their economic potentialities for investors.

2. To create or reinforce collective spaces of dialogue for multiple stakeholders, participatory reflections and proposals.

The objectives of these spaces are:

- to reinforce the dialogue between the civil society/local and the administration
- to have a better knowledge and taking into notice the points of view of the populations concerning the management of their city, with special emphasis on the view of the most vulnerable groups (young people and women in particular);
- to bring communities to take part in efforts for the development of their city;
- to identify and value new human potentialities in the city and favour experience exchange.

3.3.2 Private sector

GERME project

The Regional Programme Germe, is a training project in management, proposed by the International Labour Office (ILO). This programme is

based in Dakar, Senegal and covers 9 countries of French-speaking West Africa: Benign, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

The programme is intended for micro and small business and it is the French-speaking component of International SIYB Programme (Start and Improve Your Business) disseminated by the ILO in more than eighty countries (South and East Africa, Asia, Central Europe and of the East, Magreb and the Middle East).

The Regional Programme GERME aims, through capacity building of businessmen, to create income and employment in order to reduce poverty. The programme also brings to a certain extent, a response to the concerns of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and NEPAD.

The programme disseminates a training methodology based on the participatory approach, which was used successfully at the international level and introduced in Africa 1985. An adaptation to the context of French-speaking West Africa was made and introduced 1996 into the 9 countries covered by the Regional Programme of GERME.

3.3.3 Economy

Training Project: BCEAO

The Swedish contribution will be used to finance the activities specified in the request made on November 21, 2000 and in the project related document. The main objectives of the programme are:

- to continue the capacity building and encourage good practices within Central Banks, Ministries of Finances and Planning in French-speaking countries in West and Central Africa, while helping them on a permanent basis to identify challenges, risks and opportunities.

In a more precise way, the BCEAO will pursue the following strategic goals in about fifteen countries concerned:

- to build capacities and rise awareness on emerging opportunities and risks, and encourage good practices in some fields related to macro-economic, financial, and public debt management as well as the treasury in central banks and the Ministries of Finances and Planning of French speaking countries in Central and West Africa. The final objective is to develop good, efficient and stable financial systems as well as stable macro-economies with a strong and constant growth.

The Work will consist of:

- training of 600 staff of the central banks and Ministries of Finances on:
 - *macro-economic management*:
 - policies aiming at reducing poverty
 - the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and trade related issues
 - *management of the financial sector*
 - external reserves and foreign exchange markets
 - supervision, regulation and monitoring of the financial sector
 - accounting, payment, compensation and payment systems
 - monetary and banking statistics

- trends and operation in the financial markets
- operations related to the implementation of the monetary policy.
- training of trainees
- the creation of a network of regional contacts
- consultation and advisory services

Micro-Finance Project: BCEAO

The 2003 programme is a part of the actions undertaken over the last years for a better monitoring of the sector. The interventions will mainly concern the collection and analysis of financial information and the monitoring of decentralised financial institutions. The indicative programme of implementation will be improved by consultation meetings with stakeholders at the beginning of year.

While carrying out these priority actions, new building sites (development of regulations and accounting reference frame) will be opened for a more efficient functioning of the sector, thus reaching the planned modernisation with the new regional support programme, which is under formulation. This will be a transition programme that gives priority to monitoring, while exploring bases for the consolidation of the results registered by the sector of decentralised finance.

3.4 Administration of the programme

The Sida representation in Ouagadougou during the course of the year was staffed with:

- 1 Counsellor – Head of the mission (Swedish)
- 1 Macro-economist 30% (Swedish, placed in Dakar)
- 1 Consultant in macro-economy and private sector issues (Burkinabé), 25–50%
- 1 Programme officer in charge of environment programmes, 30% (Swedish, placed in Dakar)
- 1 Administrator half-time (Swedish, locally recruited)
- 1 Secretary/Assistant
- 1 Driver/Messenger
- 1 Consultant (September–December) for the installation of structures and regulations of the section office (Swedish)

Until May 2003, the Embassy of Sweden/Sida section office was located in the UNDP building in Ouagadougou. From June 2003, the office moved from the UNDP premises and during the autumn, all the administrative structures were established.

The Sida representation in Burkina Faso will be strengthened in 2004, firstly by a programme officer (Swedish) for macro-economic issues and the private sector and secondly by an associate bilateral expert (BBE) who will deal primarily with the activities in the social sector, in particular education, health and gender.

The formal preparation of the new programme as well as the financial follow-up will remain with the sector departments at the Sida Headquarters.

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.



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

SE-105 25 Stockholm Sweden
Phone: +46 (0)8 698 50 00
Fax: +46 (0)8 698 56 15
sida@sida.se, www.sida.se