The deterioration of the security situation in the Centre-North, East, North, Boucle of Mounhoum and Sahel regions in Burkina Faso has led to an unprecedented humanitarian crisis with an exponential increase in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) throughout 2019.

Objectives

FAO is working with partners in the Food Security Cluster to:

- Strengthen the livelihoods of crisis-affected populations by improving their agricultural and animal feed production, and supporting income-generating activities.
- Enhance the capacities of local and state actors in order to improve monitoring, preparation and coordination of the response to socio-economic and climate shocks.

Activities

**Strengthen agriculture-based livelihoods**
- agricultural inputs | animal health protection | emergency feed provision and production support | cash for work to build and rehabilitate productive assets (agricultural land, water points, transhumance corridors, etc.) | unconditional cash transfers | income-generating activities | livelihood support to women associations in IDP sites

**Enhance rapid response**
- early warning early action | rapid response mechanisms | capacity building to governmental actors and other key stakeholders | pre-positioning of stocks (agricultural inputs and animal feed)

In a context of increased insecurity, climate change, exponential growth of the number of displaced people and rising levels of food insecurity and malnutrition, it is crucial to support the agriculture-based livelihoods of vulnerable populations and to quickly improve their food security.
Impact on food security

Since the beginning of 2018, Burkina Faso has been facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. The situation continues to deteriorate at an alarming pace, forcing well over half a million people from their homes. Difficult field access, the destruction of production infrastructures, livestock loss and looting, as well as the intensification of inter-community conflict have hindered market functioning and eroded livelihoods. The country also faces recurrent floods, strong winds, and is exposed to the occurrence of epidemics and plant pests.

Limited rainfall in 2019 has affected the latest agricultural campaign in several areas, and a 2.9-percent drop in cereal production is expected for the 2019/20 season compared with last year’s season. An estimated 20–75-percent decrease in cultivated land together with a 6–15-percent decline in overall agricultural production are also forecasted. In addition, significant fodder shortages may lead to a pastoral crisis.

In certain areas, competition for natural resources between farmers and herders, and between host and displaced families is exacerbated by high population concentration, affecting social cohesion and the sustainability of these resources. Vulnerable populations are therefore at risk of facing food shortages and increased prices of staple foods.

Alarming levels of food insecurity and growing humanitarian needs are jeopardizing development gains and social cohesion in Burkina Faso. As the crisis has mainly affected rural areas, providing agricultural support is crucial to contribute to strengthening the resilience of vulnerable populations.

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