



FAO requires
USD 40 million



to assist
920 000 people



3.4 million people facing
acute food insecurity at crisis or
worse levels*



848 000 internally displaced
persons (IDPs) – a **7.5%** increase
since February 2020



cereal production decreased
by **6–15%** due to limited
rainfall in 2019

*Source: Permanent Interstate Committee
for drought control in the Sahel (CILSS)
Cadre Harmonisé, Burkina Faso –
Acute Food Insecurity Analysis (updated
June–August 2020 projection), July 2020

Impact of COVID-19 on food security and agriculture

- Faced by an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, the situation in Burkina Faso continues to deteriorate at an alarming pace, with massive population displacements due to increasing insecurity, and high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. Limited rainfall in 2019 resulted in significant fodder shortages and an overall reduction in cereal production, and may lead to an early and extended lean season. Difficult field access, the destruction of production infrastructure, livestock loss and looting, as well as the intensification of inter-community conflict have hindered market functioning and eroded livelihoods. 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.
- In a context of rising insecurity and the subsequent increase of humanitarian needs, COVID-19 is contributing to the deterioration of the food security situation, affecting households' sources of income, livelihoods and purchasing power. Border closures, disruptions of supply chains and markets, and food price hikes are preventing farmers and pastoralists from accessing basic food items and selling their products. Income reduction and the decrease in agropastoral production resulting from limited employment opportunities, and reduced access to fields for planting and inputs are severely disrupting livelihood activities.
- The impact of the pandemic on the economic conditions of the country, which is already affected by ongoing insecurity and humanitarian challenges, is estimated to translate into a 2-percent national economic growth compared with 6.3 percent anticipated prior to COVID-19, with cash crop farming (cowpea and groundnut) and subsistence farming particularly hard hit.
- The effects of the pandemic and urgent and essential health-related movement restrictions and containment measures put in place by the Government have had an additional impact on existing vulnerabilities, particularly for IDPs, host communities, urban and peri-urban households, subsistence farmers, small-scale producers, transhumant herders and vulnerable pastoralists, who have been affected by mobility disruptions and poor access to resources and inputs.



Likely evolution of the impacts of COVID-19 on food security

In an attempt to reduce the economic, social and political impacts on the population, most of the measures put in place to protect and prevent the spread of the virus have been eased. As of mid-June, the World Health Organization indicates that the spread of the pandemic has gradually slowed down. Nonetheless, the situation remains unstable and risks of transmission persist, especially among the most vulnerable populations. For the moment, food stocks are generally available in-country and are expected to last about three months for rice, four months for vegetable oil and ten months for sugar; however, households' food stocks are decreasing as the lean season progresses and certain essential COVID-19-related restriction measures remain in place, such as border closures.

Overall, the pre-COVID-19 food security and livelihood situation in 2020 was already alarming in the country due to increased insecurity. The onset of the pandemic came at a crucial period (March–July 2020), disrupting the preparation of the main agricultural season, during which farmers need access to inputs, fields and markets, and pastoralists engage in transhumant movements and rely on livestock markets. While the partial easing of COVID-19-related restrictions may facilitate vulnerable households' access to markets and their fields during the crucial stages of crop growth and harvest (July–November), and prospects for the rainy season are positive, with above-average rainfall, persistent insecurity in the country and the potential resurgence of the pandemic are likely to further disrupt agropastoral activities. Pastoralists are particularly at risk due to border closures which may further hinder their livelihood activities, already heavily affected by insecurity. Disruptions to transhumance movements

could create increased pressure on available resources and trigger violence among farmers and herders. Furthermore, adult groups of desert locust are expected to hit the Sahel region from mid-July with anticipated impacts on agricultural production and pastures.

The Government of Burkina Faso with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) carried out (June 2020) an ad-hoc evaluation of the impact of COVID-19 on food security in both urban and rural areas, and agropastoral activities. The period going from July to September will be crucial to monitor the rollout of the agricultural campaign and assess the initial effects of COVID-19 on the 2020/21 season. In general, given the combined effects of persistent insecurity and COVID-19, agropastoral livelihoods are expected to further deteriorate with reduced production, leading to increased levels of food insecurity by the end of 2020.

Anticipatory actions and response

In a context of ongoing insecurity, natural disasters, massive population displacement and rising levels of food insecurity and malnutrition, FAO's response has been focusing on strengthening the livelihoods of crisis-affected households by improving their agricultural and livestock production, and supporting income-generating activities, as well as enhancing the capacities of local and state actors to improve monitoring, preparedness and coordination.

Within the framework of FAO's Corporate COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme, the proposed actions have been identified to meet the urgent short-term needs of the most vulnerable food-insecure populations and protect their assets. It also represents FAO's contribution to the United Nations Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19. Specific activities in relation to the effects of COVID-19 include monitoring, identifying and addressing the socio-economic impacts of the virus on vulnerable households; trainings also include COVID-19 prevention measures; and unconditional cash transfers are being increasingly implemented as a social safety net.

FAO's response aims to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the food supply chain while strengthening the livelihoods of the most vulnerable, affected and at-risk households, in order to improve their food security. FAO has ensured its capacity to deliver, targeting an additional 50 000 households in the context of the pandemic, to be reached with emergency agricultural input distributions, emergency animal feed distributions and vaccination campaigns, as well as 13 000 households through cash-based transfer interventions. Supporting production during the main cropping season is key to ensure availability and access to food from September 2020 in highly vulnerable areas. Farmers and herders require assistance during the current agricultural and pastoral lean season, when households' food stocks are depleted, food prices increase, pasture is not available and livestock movement is limited due to insecurity and COVID-19-related restrictions.

Given the effects of COVID-19, FAO is providing agricultural production support in urban and peri-urban areas in order to strengthen existing distribution channels and links between producer networks and traders to markets, increasing access to food for consumers in confined neighbourhoods.

FAO is developing training modules to enable agropastoralists to adapt their production systems to the context of the pandemic. In addition, FAO will utilise digital tools benefiting technical services in order to ensure the extension of activities and monitoring of producers.

FAO is supporting the establishment of social safety nets, through cash transfers or vouchers, to purchase inputs from local producers to supply selected shops, benefiting farming families and breeders, who are affected by the pandemic. In addition, by providing agricultural inputs (crop and vegetable seeds, fertilizers, phytosanitary products, small agricultural tools and equipment) and livestock-based livelihood support (vaccines, deworming, animal feed and fodder seeds), FAO will contribute to improving production in urban and peri-urban areas, as well as the conservation, processing and marketing, in order to ensure increased availability of and access to food for vulnerable households in the main cities and municipalities subject to quarantine.

To ensure that the response is tailored to needs based on the evolving situation, continuous coordination and assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishery sectors at the national level is crucial. By leveraging its technical expertise and partnerships with the Government and local stakeholders, including the Food Security Cluster, FAO will facilitate systematic monitoring of the functioning of markets, the food supply chain and the evolution of prices and stocks, in order to anticipate and mitigate the effects of the pandemic.

Funding



FAO requires
USD 40 million

- **USD 15 million** under the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19
- **USD 25 million** under the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2020

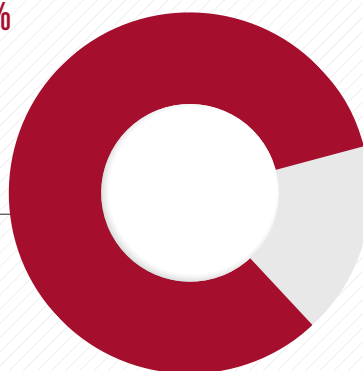


to assist
920 000 people

FUNDING GAP

USD 33.1 million

83%



17%

RECEIVED

USD 6.9 million

Resource partners

the Government of Sweden, the Central Emergency Response Fund and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund

Coordination and partnerships

- FAO works in close collaboration with relevant line ministries and will continue to advocate for the maintenance of critical food value chains, supporting livelihood protection activities and the dissemination of messages related to COVID-19 among food chain actors.
- The Food Security Cluster, co-led by FAO and the World Food Programme, is closely monitoring the latest information on COVID-19 and its impact on food security. The response is also being scaled up, including through advocating for joint impact analyses, assessments on the impact on agricultural value chains and labour markets, and price monitoring, calling for increased immediate food assistance in areas affected by COVID-19 (including urban areas) and enhanced livelihood support, while promoting hygiene and health measures during activities.

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