Burkina Faso

Analysis of conflicts over the exploitation of natural resources

Summary
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Summary
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Introduction

In Burkina Faso, the exacerbation of conflicts over natural resources and the rapid development of insecurity are sources of major concern, both for the public authorities and the populations. These phenomena have a negative impact on the security and living conditions of the populations, as well as on social cohesion, stability and peace.

The conflict analysis study was carried out as part of the implementation of the regional project entitled “Renforcer la résilience des populations pastorales et agropastorales transfrontalières dans les zones prioritaires du Sahel” (“Strengthening the resilience of cross-border pastoral and agropastoral populations in priority areas of the Sahel”), implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources (MRAH) of Burkina Faso, and funded by the European Commission (FAO-European Union Partnership Programme of the Global Network Against Food Crises [GNAFC]). In general, the objective of the conflict analysis study was to: (i) take stock of conflicts over natural resources and other conflicts in rural areas; (ii) identify initiatives for conflict prevention and management; and (iii) formulate proposals to improve the effectiveness of conflict prevention and management mechanisms.

In addition to the methodological elements that were prioritized for analysis carried out in Burkina Faso, this summary presents the major results obtained at the end of the research. The elements discussed include an examination of the current conflict situation in Burkina Faso, the typology, causes and drivers of conflicts, the mapping of stakeholders, the impact of conflicts, strategies for managing them, as well as conclusions and recommendations.

Figure 1. “Strengthening the resilience of cross-border pastoral and agropastoral populations in priority areas of the Sahel” project intervention areas

Methodology of the study

The methodological options chosen in the conflict analysis study combined a documentary review and the collection of field data through focus groups and interviews in the Centre-North, East, North and Sahel regions of Burkina Faso. In general, the study followed five main steps.

The first step consisted in an analysis of the literature available on the subject of the study.

The second step consisted in the collection of field data in the Centre-North, East, North and Sahel regions. To gather this data, the participants in the focus groups and the resource persons interviewed were chosen on the basis of:

- their involvement in the implementation of rural development activities;
- their activities in conflict prevention and management; and
- their initiatives to promote security and social peace.

A total of 13 focus group meetings and 38 interviews were conducted, which directly reached 158 people (45 in the East region, 34 in the Sahel region, 71 in the North region and eight in the city of Ouagadougou).

The third step of the methodological approach consisted in processing the data collected using Microsoft Excel software.

The fourth step of the study was to validate the conflict analysis findings. Its preparation required the support of a small group of national experts on conflicts who were mobilized during three working sessions as well as the organization of a national workshop to validate the report.¹

Despite the relevance of the methodology adopted to conduct this analytical work, a number of objective limitations should be noted: (i) data was collected at the regional capitals due to inability of organizing meetings with pastoralists and agropastoralists at the communes; (ii) some statistical data was lacking, and support documentation from certain bodies was not available; and (iii) due to the sensitive nature of the subject of the study, which was conducted in an insecure environment, respondents at times answered with great reservation.

¹ These meetings were held on 22 and 23 October 2019 in Koudougou, and on 28 and 29 November 2019 and 19 February 2020 in Ouagadougou. The national workshop on validating the study report was held in Ouagadougou on 21 February 2020.
The statistics reported by the study on the conflict situation in Burkina Faso demonstrate the scale of the issue analysed and the wide predominance of rural land conflicts (2,394 cases, or 95.76 percent). In contrast, 106 cases, or 4.24 percent were mining-based conflicts (figure 2).

The study carried out by the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Social Cohesion (2019) reveals that there are conflicts over the exploitation of natural resources in all regions of Burkina Faso. The regions with the highest number of conflicts are the Upper Bassins, Centre-North, East, Centre-East and Boucle du Mouhoun. Indeed, a study carried out in 2015 by the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Civic Promotion highlighted that, on average, 36.3 percent of conflicts recorded in the regions are over the exploitation of natural resources. This national average more than doubled according to the updated study in 2018 (covering the period from 2015 to 2017), reaching 90.96 percent; this strong increase in the number of conflict situations is mainly due to the continuous increase in rural land conflicts.

In terms of typology, research shows that, ultimately, in Burkina Faso, conflicts over the exploitation of natural resources are mainly associated with land and mineral resources (table 1).

Figure 2. Number of conflicts over the exploitation of natural resources in Burkina Faso, 2013–2018

Source: Data from the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Social Cohesion from 2013 to 2018.

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Table 1. Type of conflicts over use of natural resources in Burkina Faso

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of conflict</th>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Land conflicts (rural and urban)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conflicts over crops (conflicts between crop farmers)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conflicts between crop and livestock farmers</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conflicts between sedentary and transhumant livestock farmers</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conflicts over village boundaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conflicts over the illegal occupation of cattle tracks</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conflicts over the illegal occupation of pastoral and grazing areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conflicts over water</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conflicts between fishers and livestock farmers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Conflicts over the exploitation of wood and herbaceous resources (including between livestock farmers and foresters)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conflicts between buyers and sellers of land plots</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conflicts between plot owners</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mining conflicts</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conflicts between gold washers and mining companies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Conflicts between artisanal miners and the population</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conflicts between mining companies and the population</td>
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Source: Bibliographical research and survey data for this study.

Land conflicts result from confrontations over access and/or exploitation of land and natural resources (plants, water, cure salée, etc.). They reflect challenges in the coexistence of productive activities in rural areas.

Difficulties in accessing pastoral resources

Conflicts are the cause of the main negative impacts related to national and cross-border transhumance. These conflicts are mainly over access to pastoral resources (pastures, water points, crop residues, cure salée). The occupation of pastoral areas by crop farmers, the obstruction of cattle tracks through the fields, and the failure to respect the schedule of harvesting and sowing greatly deteriorate relationships between sedentary crop farmers and transhumant pastoralists who are often in conflict. These conflicts are mainly over damage to fields during the passage of transhumants (West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development [CORAF/WECARD], 2015). This confirms that the conflicts are over key resources.

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3 The nomenclature of actors as agreed in the mapping of integrated risks in the livestock sector in Burkina Faso (MRAH, 2018).

Conflicts over mineral resources are mainly linked to the exploitation of gold, which does not take into account the needs of other users of the natural resources. Essentially, these are: (i) conflicts between gold washers and mining companies; (ii) conflicts between gold washers and local populations; and (iii) conflicts between mining companies and the rest of the population.

With regard to the security crisis, the main characteristics of the country’s situation are as follows:

- increased insecurity in border areas with Mali and the presence of non-state armed groups in certain provinces, such as Soum;
- an increase in violent, intercommunal clashes in a context where the intervention of self-defence groups (the *Koglweogo*)\(^5\) contributes to increasing security-related tensions;
- amplified consequences of frequent attacks perpetrated by non-state armed groups, specifically the exponential increase in the number of internally displaced people (IDPs), which in August 2020, reached over 1 million individuals, and the closure of nearly 2,000 primary and secondary schools.

The analysis of the data collected by Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) (FAO, 2020)\(^6\) shows that the Centre-North, East, North and Sahel regions are the regions where insecurity has increased the most in West Africa in the last two years. Between 1 January and 17 October 2020, these regions recorded 461 security incidents (mainly armed attacks, acts of violence against civilian populations, and the use of improvised explosive devices); this represents an average of 1.5 violent events per day during the period considered.

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\(^5\) The emergence of these militias is linked to the socio-political crisis and the loss of control of the security sector by the public authorities. The authorities informally tolerated the intervention of the armed group *Koglweogo* in order to compensate for the lack of the security forces in some remote areas. Subsequently, these militias began to form associations in order to be legally recognized and established a private justice system.

Causes and drivers of conflicts

In the study, the structural causes and drivers of conflicts over natural resources were grouped according to the type of conflicts (Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst, 2006; CORAF/WECARD, 2015). In general, the salient structural causes are as follows:

- Cross-cutting causes that could cause conflicts over the natural resources include: (i) causes linked to administration (the lack of a public service adapted to meet the needs of the populations, a dysfunctional administration, laxity, corruption, impunity, failure of the authority); (ii) economic causes (e.g. poor distribution of economic resources, lack of economic governance, diversion of public resources); (iii) social causes (loss of social values, crisis within the family, socio-cultural constraints, lack of awareness of citizens’ rights and duties); (iv) lack of citizen involvement; and (v) the local authorities’ unwillingness to apply, and weak aptitude in applying, the principles of good governance.

- The specific causes of rural land conflicts include: (i) low availability of land with respect to demand; (ii) problems with field boundaries; (iii) ignorance and misinterpretation of the land law; (iv) strong competition over limited resources; (v) damage in fields caused by animals; (vi) the cultivation of pastoral areas; (vii) the difficulty of reconciling customary law and the land law; and (viii) strong population growth.

- Mining conflicts are linked to: (i) the granting of mining permits without first obtaining the opinion of landowners; and (ii) the withdrawal of land by the administration for the benefit of mining companies. The uncontrolled settlements of gold washers and their practices have also caused conflicts (e.g. uncontrolled use of heavy metals, which poison livestock, and the decrease in the specific occurrence of some forage species).

- The security crisis, which has several causes, in particular: (i) the severity of the economic and social challenges resulting from poor employment and income opportunities for the populations; (ii) the widening of social cleavages; and (iii) the lack of legitimate governance.

In addition to these main causes, the study identified a set of causal factors mainly related to: (i) the increase in population (3.1 percent), which may be one of the causes of conflicts over natural resources; (ii) the extensive nature of the agricultural production system, which is a structural cause of conflict in a context in which most of the population live in rural areas where agriculture and livestock are their main activities; (iii) failure to comply with laws and regulations on natural resources management; (iv) politics, in particular, with oppositions that are often mirrored in the relationships between the actors involved in the local exploitation of the natural resources; (v) the feeling of injustice.

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By specifically observing the factors of conflict, the study reveals several local causes and drivers of the conflicts inherent in the exploitation of natural resources in the project intervention area. There are main three types of causes:

- **Poor governance of agropastoral areas**: Indeed, animals do not have access to water bodies for their watering due to a lack of access tracks. In the rainy season, pastoral land is cultivated, and often even up to the edge of water reservoirs. There are grazing areas in the 17 project intervention communes, but these areas are not recognized by decree nor by a local land charter.

- **The refusal to accept mediation and amicable settlement**: especially in the communes of Sollé, Banh and Thiou in the North region: this refusal specifically results in the referral of several cases to justice.

- **The exacerbation of armed conflicts and the increase in migratory movements**: which leads to a massive displacement of the population, often with their animals: this phenomenon exerts increased pressure on the natural resources while landowners no longer have enough area to cultivate. Despite the conflict prevention and management activities carried out through existing mechanisms, several conflicts have not been resolved at the local and departmental levels.

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Irrespective of the type of conflicts considered and the factors that cause them, the study identifies a number of stakeholders. The description of these actors in conflict highlights their interests, perceptions, powers and strategies.

Some of these characteristics are also consistent with those selected by Schönegg et al. (2006)\(^{11}\) as well as by Wangrawa (2018)\(^{12}\) and Nanéma (2018).\(^{13}\) Consequently, they were supplemented by the results of the focus groups organized within the framework of this study. Transhumant pastoralists can be national transhumants who have changed province or region, or Malians or Nigerians who travel across Burkina Faso to reach Togo, Benin or Ghana. The interests, relationships with others, perceptions, authority and strategies of the stakeholders are very different.

On the basis of these characteristics, the study chose several categories of actors. In sum, and based on their specific interests, these actors are presented as follows:

- **Crop farmers and/or agropastoralists and their respective organizations:** they are interested in accessing land, controlling this land, protecting their fields and increasing production.

- **Sedentary (indigenous) livestock farmers:** livestock farmers are greatly concerned with their home grazing area (zone d’attache) in order to secure their rights to these lands. They seek to forge good relationships with sedentary crop farmers and the administration in order to negotiate and guarantee their rights of access to the natural resources. They also maintain relationships with transhumants based on an exchange of services.

- **Non-native or transhumant pastoralists:** transhumant pastoralists can be national transhumants who have changed province or crossed borders in search of better, secure pastures and regions, or Malians or Nigeriens who travel across Burkina Faso to reach Togo, Benin or Ghana. This cross-border mobility aims to allow animals to complete their growth cycle.

- **The defence and security forces (les forces de défense et de sécurité [FDS])** (the military, gendarmes, the police): specific missions are defined for the different bodies that make up these forces depending on their distinct characteristics. However, in general, the FDS collaborate with the actors to carry out a wide range of missions of common interest.

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• The territorial authorities (communes, regions): their role is to ensure peaceful coexistence between citizens. They aim to meet the expectations of their constituent populations and to mobilize funding for development.

• The state departments (ministries responsible for the administration of the territory, livestock, agriculture, the environment, human rights, national solidarity and finance): they are mandated to contribute to the strengthening of social cohesion and peaceful coexistence on the national territory. They provide support and advice on improving agrosilvopastoral, fish and wildlife production.

• Professional livestock farming associations: pastoral civil society organizations are set up to protect the interests of their members. They seek to ensure that their members’ concerns are taken into account at the local, regional and national levels by guaranteeing the representation of the shared interests of livestock farmers. Pastoral civil society carries out advocacy and lobbying actions on behalf of livestock farmers and pastoralists.

• Development partners (national and international): through their missions and objectives, they define their perception and vision of development as well as the profiles of the target groups. Essentially, the actions undertaken by development partners include emergency operations and development activities and initiatives to support the strengthening of social cohesion and peace building.

• The customary authorities: customary chiefs are responsible for social and political organization in the ethnic communities. The traditional rules in force in kingdoms, cantons and villages aim to ensure that the populations live in peace and in social cohesion. As important as these customary authorities are, it should be noted that their authority has diminished with the advent of modern administration.

• Religious authorities: Muslim, Christian and other traditional religious leaders provide various types of support to the populations. They promote understanding and social cohesion. Their actions are based on respect for human dignity.

• Non-state armed groups: these are international groups such as the Islamic State in the Great Sahara who are active in the Burkinabé Sahel, but also local movements (in this case, Ansarul Islam, which was created by Malam Ibrahim Dicko, a preacher from Soum Province).

• Other actors: they can be indirect or invisible actors, such as nationals living abroad, politicians, media actors or civil society organizations, who often live outside the areas where conflicts occur but who can influence them.
In terms of impacts, the investigations carried out during the study show that the conflicts inherent in the exploitation of the natural resources directly affect various types of production supports (land and natural resources). These impacts are generally identifiable at three levels: (i) physical harm to community members (assault and battery, loss of human life); (ii) deterioration of the living conditions and wealth of the populations (destruction of property, land confiscation, exclusion of migrants from certain areas, etc.); and (iii) disruption of peace and social cohesion (divisions within communities, weakening of cohesion, threat to social harmony, displacement of populations). The magnitude of the consequences at times results in a loss of cultural identity of certain marginalized groups.

The societal approach applied during the study made it possible to identify a direct influence of the status of the individual or group considered on the type of impact that may result from conflicts. Indeed, the results of observations clearly show that the escalation of conflicts over natural resources depends on the status of the people involved. In general, non-native actors believe that the procedures for settling conflicts between them and indigenous populations are often biased. Men and youth are involved the most in violent conflicts, and women are generally the victims.

The security crisis affecting the country has negative impacts on pastoral and agropastoral communities, especially among the Fulani and Tuaregs due to their strong pastoral tradition. Other ethnic groups, for example, the Mossi and the Gourmantché, are rarely spared.

The consequences of conflicts are deeply felt in the communities. There are at least two main reasons for this:

• The conflicts have impacts on the victim populations (conflicts linked to chiefdom, tensions between ethnic groups, etc.) who suffer from assault and battery, at times leading to loss of life. As a result, there are divisions between families and within families, exclusion, humiliation and loss of social cohesion. In terms of the social climate, the divisions are often so great that families are forced to migrate.
• A destruction of livelihoods (homes and food) has been observed, often due to fires (e.g. during community conflicts) and the confiscation of goods (e.g. financial resources, food, farmland, animals).

Heads of households remain particularly affected by these conflicts and are often forced to leave their homes. Indeed, according to testimonies gathered by the study, some non-state armed groups mainly attack men and seek to recruit youth. Women, who represent about 70 percent of IDPs, are deeply affected by a range of violent acts.

Faced with the closure of several schools, intensive courses and remedial exams were organized for the 2018/19 school year. With regard to the 2019/20 school year, teachers assigned to areas where there are clashes between the military and non-state armed groups have simply been
redeployed elsewhere.

With respect to culture, religious rites and activities are greatly disrupted by the intervention of non-state armed groups who denounce certain Muslim practices and label those who collaborate with the State as enemies. Religious leaders (Muslims and Christians) have been murdered and/or kidnapped. Several among them have moved, and others seek the protection of the FDS during times of solemn prayers (Friday prayers, masses, worship), which take place in different parts of the country.

The study found that rolling stock (vehicles, motorcycles) was stolen within the technical departments, projects and programmes, as well as non-governmental organizations and associations. Some state officials and elected officials were forced to leave their places of residence.

Regarding mining production, some gold mines are no longer operating full-time, while others have come under attack.

Social trust has deteriorated to such a degree that families refuse to host strangers, which is contrary to tradition. At times, members of the same family or neighbouring families mistrust each other.

Insecurity also affects livestock mobility. Some grazing and fall-back areas have become inaccessible; animal tracks have changed; and good pastures have been abandoned.

Regarding the GNAFC project intervention area, some technical departments are absent from several communes for security reasons. In addition, many beneficiaries have been forced to move (the provinces of Loroum, Komondjari, Oudalan, Soum and Yatenga).

Project interventions contribute to positively influence the dynamics of conflicts due to the impacts caused by the following actions:

- Strengthening of the resilience of the most vulnerable households who benefit from an integrated set of activities (cash transfers, cash+, livestock redistribution, etc.).
- The development of spaces for promoting peace through training activities (agropastoral field schools, Dimitra Clubs, etc.).
- Promotion of the economic empowerment of youth and women through the creation of agropastoral processing units.
- The establishment of systems of inclusive access to resources and pastoral infrastructure.
Mechanisms and strategies of conflict management

In the project intervention area, the populations use various conflict prevention and management mechanisms, which are traditional, formal and non-formal. Mention should be made of the conflict management mechanisms linked to transhumance that have been put in place with the support of state-state and cooperation agencies. There is also a mechanism for dealing with community conflicts: the Observatoire national de prévention et de gestion des conflits communautaires (National Observatory for the Prevention and Management of Community Conflicts). The effectiveness of the different mechanisms is, however, relatively low. Accordingly, recommendations were formulated by the study, and some actions were proposed to be included in a conflict-sensitive project.

With regard to adapting to conflict situations, surveys have revealed that populations develop endogenous strategies or those suggested by supervisory bodies (technical departments and development projects) to deal with conflicts. Thus, in order to improve agricultural and pastoral production, the strategies used are, *inter alia*, applying water and soil conservation techniques (stone bunds, zaï, half-moons, filtering dykes, agroforestry) and using improved seeds. With respect to animal production, the following practices can be observed: forage cultivation, mowing and forage conservation, genetic improvement through artificial insemination, optimization of the use of crop residues, agro-industrial by-product supplements and urea treatment of straw, etc. The results of the study also show the following:

- To avoid keeping large herds, some pastoralists and agropastoralists divide their cattle into lots, which are taken to different areas. Thus, some families in the Sahel region have sent some of their animals to the southern regions (Centre-East, Centre-South, South-West, Cascades, Centre-West) or abroad.
- Some agricultural migrants have good relationships with landowners in order to avoid being landless.
- Collaboration between stakeholders in conflicts over natural resources (in this case, those between crop and livestock farmers) and those responsible for conflict prevention and management mechanisms facilitates the adoption of amicable solutions.
- The securing of pastoral spaces (pastoral areas, grazing areas, cattle tracks and rest areas) helps reduce the potential for conflicts between crop and livestock farmers.

Moreover, in order to face various threats, in particular, the erosion of social cohesion caused by armed conflicts, which disrupt community life, the populations surveyed during the study stated that they had developed multiple strategies.

With regard to the strategies implemented by pastoralists and agropastoralists, the study finds that: (i) these populations move to take shelter from non-state armed groups; (ii) they use available means of communication, if the situation permits; (iii) they obey non-state armed groups if this ensures their survival; and (iv) some of them collaborate with the FDS.
For the specific case of the state technical departments, projects and programmes also adopt strategies to assist and support the population. Against this backdrop, several findings emerged from the study:

- Training and awareness-raising activities on conflict prevention and management were organized in six regions of the country (Boucle du Mouhoun, Cascades, East, Upper Basin, North and Sahel) by the Direction générale de l’aménagement du territoire (General Directorate of Territorial Development) and the General Directorate of Pastoral Spaces and Developments (DGEAP) from 2018 to 2019 (DGEAP, 2019 and 2020). Based on the situation, the general administration declared a state of emergency and established a curfew in part of the territory, including the project area. Awareness-raising is ongoing to facilitate collaboration between the population and the FDS.

- The Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Civic Promotion conducted awareness-raising and training activities on the prevention and management of community conflicts, as well as on the culture of tolerance and peace.

- At the ministerial department responsible for agriculture, a telephone aid platform (E-Vulgarisation) and radio are used to provide support and advice to producers, with an emphasis on sustainable natural resources management and on the improvement of agricultural and animal productivity. This platform and radio were similarly used by the departments responsible for livestock, water and the environment that promote telephone and electronic communications.

- At the departments responsible for social action, local officials and elected representatives mobilized to provide the local population with food and other products. Local relays and local resource people were also called on to provide training.

The security incidents have resulted in the loss of human life and the destruction of property. The displaced people in Thiou (Yatenga province) are sheltered in camps and by host families. In Oudalan province, for example, people are moving to Gorom Gorom. In Soum province, IDPs are sheltered in three camps located in Djibo, Kelbo and Arbinda. Families who left Arbinda have moved around Dori. In the event of massive displacement, psychologists are sent by the Ministry of National Solidarity to provide assistance to victims.

Conclusions and recommendations

In order to improve the prevention and management of these conflicts, both related and not related to the exploitation of natural resources and insecurity in some parts of the GNAFC project intervention area, the following short-term recommendations were made:

- **To the Government:** (i) Improve communication and collaboration between the populations and the FDS, encourage the use of toll-free numbers and promote collaboration between them. (ii) Mobilize internal and external human, technical, material and financial resources to implement activities for restoring security throughout the territory. (iii) Pursue the development of inclusive emergency projects and programmes to contain the security and humanitarian crisis, provide affected households with psychological, health, food and other essential material support, and take measures to safeguard their livelihoods.

- **To the GNAFC project and other ongoing projects:** Take into account the security situation and be flexible in implementation.

- **To technical and financial partners:** Ensure the mobilization of financial resources to support the State in managing the security and humanitarian crisis by developing emergency and rehabilitation projects and implementing field activities.

- **To the populations:** (i) Strengthen the participation in the implementation of emergency and rehabilitation activities carried out to their benefit. (ii) To be more actively involved in the implementation of conflict prevention and management strategies that will be initiated by the State and its partners, with a particular emphasis on volunteering.

In the **short and medium term**, it is necessary to implement actions to support sustainable emergency actions taking into account the solutions to the structural causes of conflicts. Accordingly, the recommendations are as follows:

- **To the Government:** (i) Strengthen social cohesion through the establishment and operationalization of community relays. (ii) Strengthen the technical and operational capacities of the actors involved in the various conflict prevention and management mechanisms. (iii) Take greater account of the topic of conflict prevention and management in the formulation and implementation of development projects and programmes.

- **To the technical and financial partners:** (i) Support the actions of the Government in matters of security and the implementation of initiatives to promote peace, inclusive development, and food and nutritional security of the population. (ii) Mobilize financial resources and technical support for their implementation.
In the **medium and long term**, actions must be implemented to resolve the structural causes of conflicts and ensure development. Thus, the recommendations are as follows:

- **To the Government**: Develop and implement economic and social development actions, in accordance with policies and strategies with the support of technical and financial partners.

- **To technical and financial partners**: Support prospective analyses and inclusive development projects and programmes initiated by the Government and stakeholders in the agrosilvopastoral, fisheries and wildlife sectors.

The training provided in the Sahel in FAO’s “The Programme Clinic: Designing conflict-sensitive interventions” allowed to formulate project-specific recommendations that can be incorporated into the results framework. Regarding the project’s intervention in Burkina Faso, several important recommendations were made, as follows:

### With respect to potential opposition:

- Strengthen outreach and communication efforts targeting all relevant actors, emphasizing FAO’s mandate and commitment to respect the principles of neutrality, in line with the humanitarian approach.
- Introduce greater flexibility in the project design to facilitate a readjustment of interventions in order to better take into account the needs of IDPs and host communities.

### With respect to the impact evaluation on the peace and conflict intervention:

- Carry out a socio-economic gender analysis in order to ensure that the specific needs of women and youth are effectively taken into account.
- Strengthen the capacities of the management committees of the pastoral infrastructures so that they can set up systems that ensure inclusive access (for direct users, transhumants, displaced persons, etc.).

### With respect to the drivers of peace and conflict:

- Build the capacities of pastoral infrastructure management committees, so that they can set up inclusive access systems (direct users, transhumants, displaced people, etc.).
- Prioritize the establishment of Dimitra Clubs and agropastoral field schools in secure areas and reception sites for IDPs by including conflict management modules in the curricula.
- Reduce the potential for conflicts resulting from competition over access to natural resources, through the application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.
Saving livelihoods saves lives

The Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) was launched by the European Union, FAO and the World Food Programme at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit to step up joint efforts to address food crises along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and continue to raise global awareness and commitment from all relevant actors.

GNAFC offers a coherent coordination framework to promote collective efforts in analysis and strategic programming for a more efficient use of resources to prevent, prepare for and respond to food crises and, ultimately, support collective outcomes related to Sustainable Development Goal 2 for lasting solutions to food crises.

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