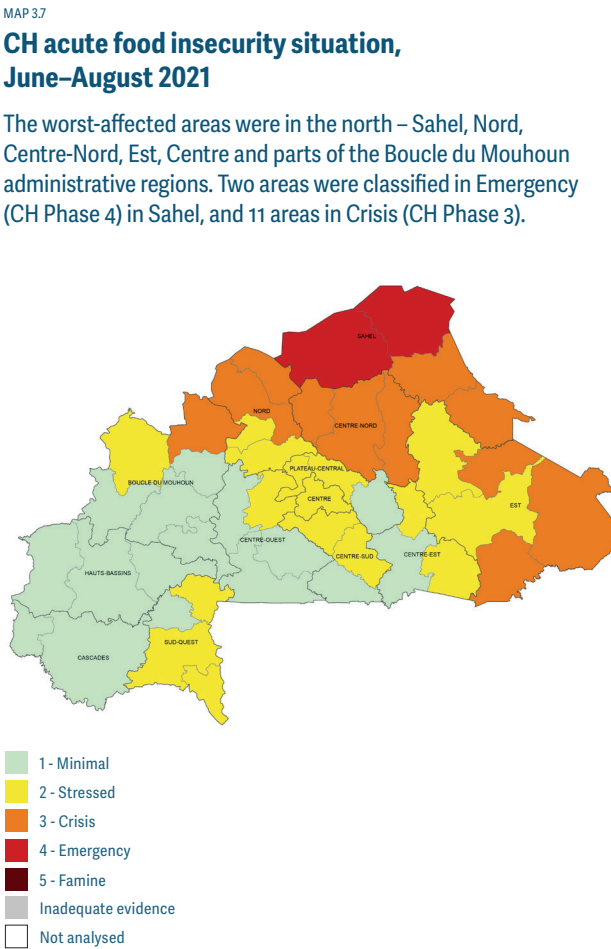
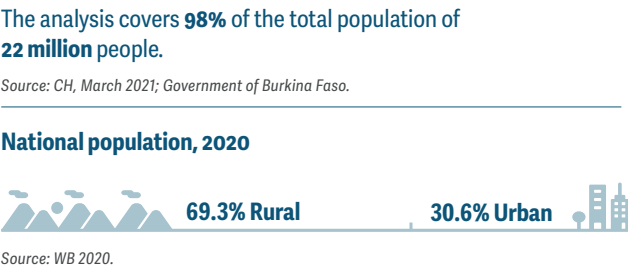
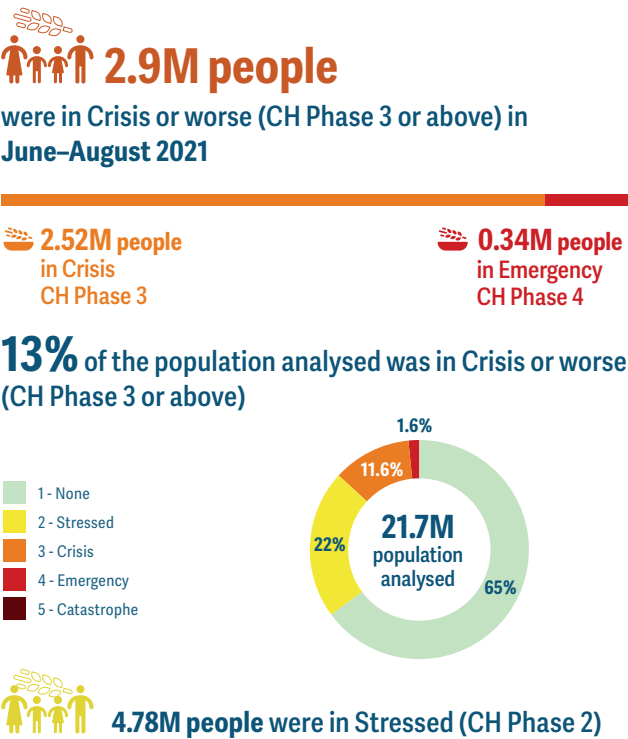


Burkina Faso

Acute food insecurity overview 2021



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: CH, March 2021.

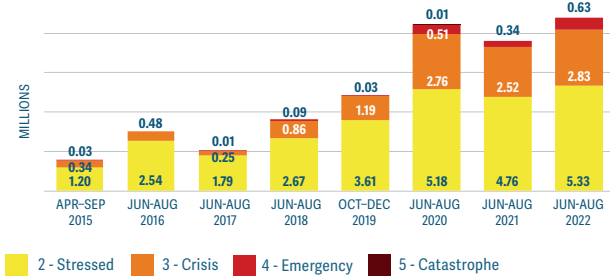
Acute food insecurity trends

Numbers have fallen slightly since 2020. Burkina Faso's food crisis escalated from 2018 due to increasing armed conflicts and intercommunal violence in the northern and eastern regions.

By mid-2020, the number of IDPs reached over a million and the number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) reached 3.28 million, including 11 400 people in Catastrophe (CH Phase 5) during the June–August 2020 lean season. This was over three times the number recorded during the 2018 June–August lean season and the October–December peak period for 2019 (CH, July 2020).

The number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) has fallen since June–August 2020, in part due to the scaling-up of humanitarian assistance efforts (FAO-WFP, 2021) in affected areas. However, the overall number of people facing Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) remained high during the lean season in 2021 when compared to the 2016 to 2018 levels, mainly due to the deteriorating security situation (CH, November 2021).

FIG 3.3
Numbers of people in CH Phase 2 or above, 2015–2022



Bars refer to selected analyses that are comparable (see Technical Notes). Datasets from all analysis rounds between 2014 and 2022 are provided (see Appendix 1, table A2, page 244).

Source: CH.

Drivers of the food crisis in Burkina Faso in 2021

Ongoing conflict and insecurity in border areas, in conjunction with rising food prices, the socioeconomic effects of COVID-19 and localized dryness continued to drive high numbers of acutely food-insecure people in 2021.

✱ Conflict/insecurity

Unidentified armed groups continued to operate across most of the country – particularly in border areas – carrying out attacks that destroyed livelihoods, constrained alternative income-generating opportunities and displaced households. The frequency and intensity of attacks, as well as violence against civilians, increased sharply from the previous year. The biggest spikes occurred from May to July and again in October (ACLED, December 2021).

The violence pushed the number of IDPs to new highs of around 1.4 million as of August 2021 (UNHCR, 2021), constrained access to and the provision of humanitarian assistance (ACAPS, December 2021) and disrupted agricultural production (FAO, November 2021). Agricultural activities were especially limited in border areas in the Nord, Sahel and Est regions due to conflict and insecurity (FEWS NET, August 2021).

Conflict over natural resources also escalated, leading to a deepening of tensions between pastoralists and smallholder farmers (ACLED, June 2021). In areas with large IDP populations, there was competition – and conflict at times – between IDPs and the host population over natural resources for livestock and crop production, especially land and water (FAO, 2021).

✱ Weather extremes

Erratic and below-average seasonal rains hampered the establishment and development of the 2021 cereal crops. An early cessation of the rainy season in September during critical crop development stages negatively affected yields, particularly in the main producing southern, central and western areas. Torrential rains triggered floods and caused localized crop losses in August and September in central and western parts (FAO-GIEWS, December 2021). Overall cereal production decreased by nine percent from the previous year (CH, November 2021).



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Violence in Burkina Faso increased the number of IDPs to new highs of around 1.4 million as of August 2021 and disrupted agricultural production.

These same agro-climatic conditions affected the fodder and pasture for livestock production in the northern regions, which were expected to have an early start to the pastoral lean season in February 2022 (FAO-GIEWS, October 2021).

🏠 Economic shocks, including COVID-19

Economic disruptions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic and soaring food prices contributed to the ongoing food crisis. Restrictions on movement within the country to limit the spread of COVID-19 reduced people's ability to access markets as well as agricultural inputs (FAO-WFP, 2021). Containment measures also contributed to increased unemployment rates and decreased household incomes, particularly in the six regions already affected by growing insecurity (FAO, November 2021). Border closures reduced trade opportunities and were particularly

costly for transhumant livestock producers. Prices of coarse grains, especially sorghum and maize, increased throughout 2021 despite the downward pressure stemming from the main season harvests (FAO-GIEWS, December 2021). In July, national prices for staple cereals were notably above the previous year's: 39 percent higher for maize, 12 percent for millet, and 19 percent for sorghum (FEWS NET, August 2021). Household purchasing power was therefore significantly reduced.

🦠 Crop pests and diseases

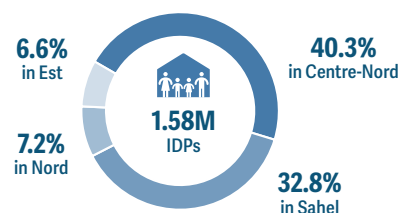
Production losses from crop pests were recorded. An armyworm outbreak is estimated to have infested 43 400 hectares mostly in the southern and eastern regions (FAO, November 2021), while grain-eating birds caused above average crop losses in the Sahel region (FEWS NET, October 2021).

Displacement in Burkina Faso in 2021

IDPs

FIG 3.4

The number of IDPs continued to increase in 2021 with 51 percent more in December 2021 than December 2020



Source: Government of Burkina Faso (CONASUR), December 2021.

There were nearly 507 600 new IDPs in 2021 (UNHCR and Government of Burkina Faso, December 2021). More than half of surveyed IDPs had been displaced for more than one year (WFP, December 2021). IDPs are hosted among local communities or in temporary reception sites and the majority (62 percent) of them are children (UNICEF, December 2021).

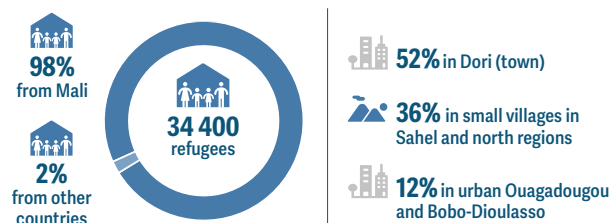
Almost all surveyed households (95 percent) reported food as a priority need (CONASUR, December 2021). Among surveyed IDP households who received humanitarian food or cash assistance, only 20–35 percent had acceptable food consumption. Only 7–9 percent of women of reproductive age had minimal dietary diversity, and only 2.5–4 percent of children had access to minimally acceptable diets (WFP, December 2021).

Despite receiving humanitarian assistance, 94 percent of the IDP population had to reduce the quantity of their daily food consumption, 35 percent had to consume less preferred food, and 22 percent had to borrow or beg for food. In some localities of Oudalan (Sahel), 60 percent of IDP and hosting community households had only one meal per day, and some of them had to go entire days without eating, according to CONASUR (FEWS NET, October 2021).

Refugees

FIG 3.5

The refugee population increased by 34 percent from December 2020 to December 2021



Source: UNHCR, January 2022.

The number of refugees hosted in Burkina Faso steadily increased in 2021, as conflict intensified in neighbouring Mali (UNHCR, January 2022).

By 31 January 2022, 25 185 mainly Malian refugees were hosted in the country, including over 11 000 new arrivals in 2021. There was also a small number of refugees from the Central African Republic and Chad (UNHCR, January 2022).

By early 2022, approximately 52 percent of the refugees in the country lived in the town of Dori, after fleeing the former Goudoubo Camp due to insecurity. The population of Dori tripled with the arrivals, increasing pressure on already stressed resources and facilities of the local population (UNHCR, January 2022).

Additional drivers of acute food insecurity and malnutrition for displaced people

Most displaced populations abandoned their livelihoods including agricultural assets and food stocks, which were often stolen by attackers after their departure. In the far north of Burkina Faso, most displaced households were unable to cultivate due to displacement and the deteriorating security situation (FEWS NET, December 2021).

Many households were displaced along with their livestock (FAO, June 2021), and continued to be negatively affected by cattle rustling and livestock destocking (FEWS NET, October 2021). As of December 2021, livestock assets were mostly depleted among IDPs (FEWS NET, December 2021).

As of October 2021, around 76 percent of IDPs depended on market purchases to access food, according to CONASUR (FEWS NET, December 2021). While food supplies were lower than average at the national level, demand for food in markets was above normal because of the increasing number of IDPs. This increased demand contributed to an increase in prices. Staple

prices were above their previous year levels and their five-year average in a number of monitored markets, including Titao, Yalgo, Sebba, Ouahigouya, Seytenga, Kongoussi and Gayéri (FEWS NET, January 2022).

In a context of prolonged dry spells, pasture availability and quality was further limited by the IDP influx and increased presence of livestock (FEWS NET, October 2021). Because of low water levels and increased pressure on already limited resources, planted areas for cropping were also reduced, which was expected to reduce opportunities for agricultural work and food availability for IDPs in the next harvest season (FEWS NET, January 2022).

Continuous displacements and persisting insecurity led to limited operability of health and sanitary facilities and decreased access to basic services. Vaccination coverage in the context of a resurgence of measles outbreaks was concerning low (UNICEF, December 2021b).

Key nutrition challenges



631 730 children under 5 years were **wasted** in 2021
151 210 of them were **severely wasted**



128 670 pregnant and lactating women were **acutely malnourished**

Source: IPC AMN, January 2021.

Over half of all 45 provinces in Burkina Faso were classified in Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3) or Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4), according to the January 2021 IPC acute malnutrition analysis.

Wasting prevalence ranged from 6 percent (Central province) to 12.1 percent (Plateau Central) during the 2021 lean season (SMART, 2021), but the nutrition outcomes are expected to worsen in 2022. The worst-affected populations were in the Sahel, Nord, Centre-Nord, Est, Centre, Plateau-Central and parts of the Boucle du Mouhoun and Centre-Ouest administrative regions. Most of the provinces in these regions were classified in Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3) and all four provinces of the Sahel region were classified in Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) (IPC AMN, January 2021).

Nationally, nearly 22 percent of children under the age of 5 years are stunted. In Centre-Nord the prevalence exceeds the 'very high' (> 30 percent) threshold (SMART 2021). At 77 percent, the prevalence of anaemia in children under 5 remained at critically high levels in 2019 (WB, January 2022).

Key drivers

Caring and feeding practices

Poor infant and child feeding practices are significant drivers of stunting and wasting in Burkina Faso. Only about 70 percent of infants are exclusively breastfed for the first 6 months of life, with large regional variations, ranging from 57 percent in Haut Bassins to 88 percent in the Sud-Ouest region (SMART, 2021). Inadequate complementary feeding is also highly prevalent in Burkina Faso, as only 23.9 percent of children aged 6–23 months have a minimum

acceptable diet and 31.6 percent minimum dietary diversity (SMART, 2021), which is mostly due to inadequate quantities of food intake. Poor maternal nutrition contributes to an intergenerational cycle of malnutrition: 53 percent of women of reproductive age suffer from anaemia, which indicates a severe public health problem, according to WHO thresholds (WB, January 2022).

Health services and household environment

Over 2.5 million people in Burkina Faso were estimated to be in need of WASH assistance in 2021 (OCHA, 2021). The low levels of access to drinking water and sanitation facilities contributed to poor hygiene conditions that led to high prevalence of childhood illnesses, such as fever and diarrhoea. The ongoing security crisis in the northern and eastern border regions has led to the continued closure of health facilities in areas that already have limited access to humanitarian assistance (IPC AMN, January 2021).

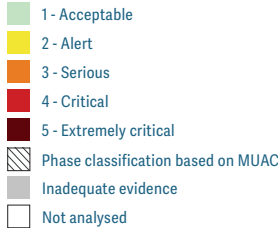
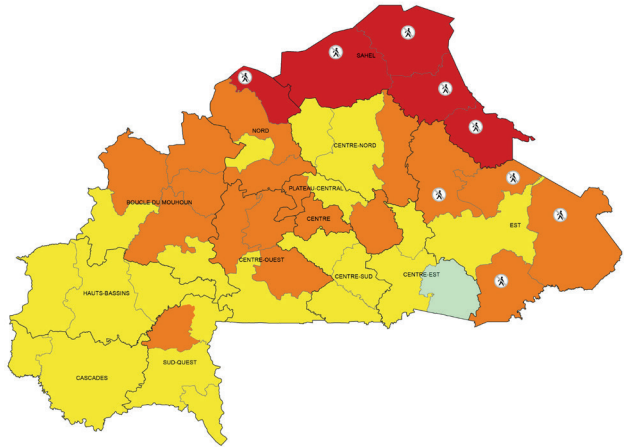
Food security and access to healthy diets

High levels of both acute food insecurity and malnutrition were reported in the Sahel, Nord, Centre-Nord, Est, Centre and parts of the Boucle du Mouhoun administrative regions, which are the areas most affected by attacks from unidentified armed groups, population displacement, limited access to humanitarian assistance and climate variability. The prevalence of wasting extends further south into provinces of the Sud-Ouest, Centre and Plateau-Central regions, while in contrast, these areas are less affected by acute food insecurity. These southern areas are classified as Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3) for wasting while in Stressed (IPC AFI Phase 2) for acute food security (IPC AMN, January 2021).

MAP 3.8

IPC acute malnutrition situation, May–July 2021

Of Burkina Faso's 45 provinces, 20 were classified in Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3) and four in Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4).



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: Burkina Faso IPC AMN Technical Working Group, January 2021.


Acute food insecurity forecast, 2022

 **3.45M people**

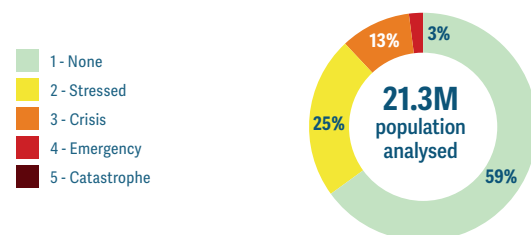
were forecast to be in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) in June–August 2022

 **2.83M people**
in Crisis
(CH Phase 3)


 **0.63M people**
in Emergency
(CH Phase 4)

 The situation is expected to worsen, with unprecedented numbers of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) – a 21 percent increase above the 2021 peak levels.

16% of the population analysed was forecast to be in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above)



 **5.33M people** were forecast to be in Stressed (CH Phase 2)

 The analysis covered the entire country's land area and **97%** of the total population of **21.9 million** people.

Source: CH, March 2022.

Given limited time between the release of the latest CH results and the publication of the GRFC, no projection map is provided for Burkina Faso.

Persistent conflict and insecurity, as well as production shortfalls and high food prices, are projected to increase the numbers of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) during the 2022 lean season.

Conflict/insecurity

The conflict is not expected to improve in 2022, as hostilities will continue to adversely impact the civilian population in the northern and eastern regions and lead to additional displacements. Access to agricultural inputs, markets and humanitarian aid in these areas will remain constrained and negatively affect food availability and access. Food stocks are expected to be depleted between January and February 2022, reflecting widespread production shortfalls. Consequently, IDP and poor households in host communities will likely be highly dependent on markets and assistance beginning in March 2022, placing additional financial pressure on household incomes to meet food needs (FEWS NET, December 2021). This situation will perpetuate Emergency (CH Phase 4) conditions, particularly for vulnerable populations living in the provinces of Loroum (Nord) and Oudalan, Seno, Soum and Yagha (Sahel) in the lean season (CH, March 2022).

Economic shocks, including COVID-19

The prices of staple foods are projected to remain high throughout Burkina Faso in 2022 due to a series of factors, including competition amongst traders for scarce market resources, declines in production, IDP dependence on the market, and the early depletion of household stocks (FEWS NET, December 2021). High prices combined with reduced incomes due to the economic effects of COVID-19 and limited economic opportunities will continue to erode household purchasing power (CH, March 2022).

Weather extremes

Erratic and below-average rainfall in 2021 coupled with limited access to agricultural inputs and insecurity in the northern and eastern regions are expected to adversely impact livestock production and crop yields in 2022 (Global Humanitarian Overview 2022, December 2021).



Kadi regularly takes her twin boys to the local health centre near their home in the Centre-Nord region for their check-up.

The 2021–2022 cereal production is 10 percent below the year-earlier levels. As supply decreased while demand remains high, food prices increased higher than 40 percent compared to their five-year average (RPCA, March 2022).