



BURKINA FASO

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 32.7**

Appeal number **MAABF002**

In support of the Burkinabe Red Cross Society



45

National Society branches



312

National Society staff



45,030

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



186,000

Ongoing emergency operations



70,000

Climate and environment



144,000

Disasters and crises



966,000

Health and wellbeing



633,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Emergency response

- Food insecurity

Longer term needs

- Protracted displacement
- Livelihoods • Health
- Water, sanitation and hygiene
- Climate change adaptation

Capacity development

- Volunteer management
- Resource mobilization
- Internal systems strengthening

Key country data

Population **21.5M**

INFORM Severity rating **high**

Long-term Climate Risk Index **112**

Human Development Index rank **184**

Population below poverty level **41.4%**

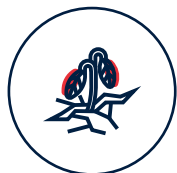
Hazards



Food insecurity



Floods



Drought



Conflict



Violence



Population movement

Funding requirements

Total 32.7M CHF

Through the IFRC

12.8M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

15.9M CHF

Host National Society

4M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

7M CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

Longer term needs

400,000 CHF

Climate and environment

698,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

4.1M CHF

Health and wellbeing

100,000 CHF

Migration and displacement

510,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Ongoing emergencies

MDRBF017

Burkina Faso Acute
Food Insecurity

*Folded under MGR60001 Africa
Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal*

Participating National Societies

Belgian Red Cross

British Red Cross

Luxembourg Red Cross

Red Cross of Monaco

Norwegian Red Cross

Spanish Red Cross



NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Burkinabe Red Cross Society was officially recognized by the Government as a voluntary, autonomous relief society and auxiliary to the public authorities in 1962. It has been a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) since 1963.

The National Society's presence is widely recognized and accepted by the authorities and people within Burkina Faso. It is represented in all the country's 45 provinces through its provincial committees, and its services reach an average of 830,000 vulnerable people every year.

As outlined in its Strategic Plan 2021–2030, the Burkinabe Red Cross aims to consolidate its institutional and organizational base and strengthen its communications to increase the impact of its actions and mission by 2030. The Strategic Plan includes the following objectives:

- Improve the health and well-being of the most vulnerable people using an inclusive, participatory approach by 2030

- Improve socio-economic conditions, particularly for vulnerable people and those affected by emergency situations, taking gender and inclusion into account
- Sustainably strengthen the resilience of communities in response to crises and disasters
- Improve access to water, hygiene and sanitation, and environmentally friendly housing for vulnerable people in emergency and development contexts
- Promote the education and protection of vulnerable children in emergency situations, while taking gender and inclusion into account

An additional strategic objective is to ensure the security and safety of Red Cross interventions, as the Burkinabe Red Cross has experienced major incidents of kidnapping, intimidation and even the death of a staff member in recent years. To address this, the National Society has created a security coordination unit that has laid the foundations for security management. The aim is to strengthen the existing system and adopt a culture of security management in all National Society activities.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

Burkina Faso is a low-income Sahelian country with limited natural resources. It is landlocked and shares its borders with six countries: Mali, Niger, Benin, Ghana, Togo and Ivory Coast. The population is growing at an annual rate of 2.89 per cent, with an average birth rate of 5.23 per woman, and it is expected to grow from the current estimate of 22.6 million to more than 50 million people in 2058.

Political changes created new challenges in 2022, starting with the ousting of President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré in January. Lieutenant Colonel Paul Henri Sandaogo Damiba, the leader of the Patriotic Movement for Preservation and Restoration, was then sworn in as President in March 2022 for a period of three years. In the wake of this regime change, the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union suspended Burkina Faso from their decision-making bodies until constitutional order is restored. Another change occurred with Captain Ibrahim Traoré taking

power in September. A transition Government was formed in October to lead the country until it can return to constitutional order, scheduled for July 2024.

Burkina Faso is ranked 144 out of 157 countries in the World Bank's Human Capital Index, and 40.1 per cent of its population lives below the national poverty line. Inflation reached a 10-year high in 2021, driven by solid growth and severe pressure on global supply chains. A 14.7 per cent hike in food prices increased food insecurity. Driven by an even greater increase in food prices, inflation worsened in the first half of 2022, before stabilizing towards the end of the year.

Burkina Faso faces water scarcity and growing food insecurity caused by climate shocks, as well as major security problems with persistent clashes between non-state armed groups and the Government. Since 2015, the country has been the target of violent attacks. The number of security incidents in 2021 was 1,184, an average of 98 incidents per month, causing 2,141

deaths. Such incidents close markets, block supply chains for communities and cause significant population displacements.

There were 1.9 million internally displaced people in Burkina Faso in April 2022, a significant increase from 50,000 in January 2019. In May 2022, the Centre-North, East and Sahel regions experienced significant population movements.

In April 2022, more than 4,000 schools, which represent more than 16 per cent of educational facilities, were closed due to a lack of security, and this affected more than 700,000 students. The worsening of the situation has made it more difficult for humanitarian actors to reach the affected people, particularly in Barsalogo in the Centre-North, Pama/Majoari in the East, Titao in the North and Djibo in the Sahel.

Ongoing emergency response

For real-time information on emergencies, see the IFRC GO page [Burkina Faso](#)

- Appeal number: [MDRBF017](#) – Burkina Faso Acute Food Insecurity, folded under [MGR60001](#) Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal
- Appeal launch date: 26 May 2022
- Appeal end date: 31 December 2023
- People affected: 3.4 million
- People to be assisted: 186,000

The Burkinabe Red Cross has been responding to the food security crisis in the country through a Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation since May 2022. Multiple Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) publications were forecasting a deterioration of the food security situation and the risk of famine until September 2022.

Burkina Faso has more than 3.4 million food-insecure people. This food crisis causes arable land to be deserted and creates a large flow of people, a snowball effect from the northern part of the country to areas further south, putting pressure on the production and consumption structure of host communities.

As a result of the deteriorating situation, Burkina Faso is now one of the priority countries supported by the IFRC's regional [Africa Hunger Crisis](#) Emergency Appeal. Launched in October 2022, this appeal scales up the IFRC's immediate and life-saving response to the food insecurity crisis currently affecting the region. Country prioritization is based on a multi-variate analysis, which includes the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and focuses on those communities experiencing a crisis or worse level of acute food insecurity (IPC phase 3). Details of the geographic areas covered will be provided in each country plan of action.

See the 'Disasters and crises' section for more information on food insecurity in Burkina Faso.

At a time of intense global humanitarian need and competing demands, sub-Saharan Africa is experiencing one of the most alarming food crises in decades. Approximately 146 million people – a figure approaching half the population of the United States – are suffering from acute food insecurity and require urgent humanitarian assistance.

Hunger is one of the most undignified sufferings of humanity and has severe repercussions on African communities who face multiple shocks, compromising their lives, livelihoods and prospects. Driven by a combination of insecurity and armed conflict, extreme weather events, climate variability and negative macroeconomic conditions, the food crisis is distinct in its magnitude and geographic scope. As such, it requires an exceptional effort by all concerned institutions and states to address the causes.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Supported by the IFRC, African and other participating National Societies have developed an emergency response with an emphasis on meeting the urgent food, nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene needs of the most vulnerable people affected by the food crisis. It also aims to protect people's livelihoods while laying the foundations for building resilience.

The four operational pillars are defined as follows:

- **Cash transfers for safety nets and safeguarding livelihoods:** improve food access and maintain consumption levels through the scale-up of emergency food assistance, primarily through cash transfers to poor households experiencing acute food insecurity

- **Health and nutrition:** provide nutrition surveillance, education and health promotion
- **Water, sanitation and hygiene:** provide safe water directly, rehabilitate water supply infrastructure, provide in-kind water treatment and storage products, and enable cash or voucher assistance
- **Cross-cutting sectors, protection and prevention:** implement community engagement and accountability, and protection, gender and inclusion initiatives. These are critical and transversal components that ensure operations value all community members as equal partners with diverse needs, priorities and preferences

The National Society plays an important role in enabling and facilitating access to the services and goods provided by the Government and other actors. Targeted groups are acutely food-insecure households struggling to meet their basic needs. In-country geographic targeting of affected regions and smaller administrative units is based on the IPC's Cadre Harmonisé data and other recognized references. When this is completed, households are targeted based on food security and economic criteria agreed upon by the community or, ideally, developed jointly with them.

Within these food-insecure and poor households, targeting can be further refined by identifying social categories. Protection, gender and inclusion considerations are incorporated into the targeting process to provide an understanding and response to individuals and groups based on their specific risks, needs and concerns.

Longer-term strategy

The Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal, part of the IFRC Pan-African Zero Hunger Initiative, informs the longer-term food security and livelihood plans of National Societies in Africa. The Appeal takes a holistic approach, combining rapid support for food security and livelihoods with its long-term strategy of working towards zero hunger and sustainable development.

The regional Emergency Appeal focuses on responding to the immediate needs of the people affected, and its approach facilitates the transition to longer-term programming. Upon completion of the Appeal, the IFRC and the National Society will continue their long-term work through the Zero Hunger Initiative programming. This will be integrated into the Burkinabe Red Cross country plan 2024.

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

Burkina Faso's diverse and varied geography exposes it to a wide range of environmental risks that are directly affected and exacerbated by the impacts of climate change.¹

Burkina Faso is characterized by a dry tropical climate, with a rainy season from June to September. The rainfall variation across the country is influenced by the migration of the Intertropical Convergence Zone. The dry season is influenced by the harmattan, a dry, easterly wind bringing hot air to the region from March to May. Annual average temperatures range between 25°C and 32°C, with temperatures going as low as 17°C in December and January, and up to 40°C between March and April.

The El Niño Southern Oscillation creates irregular, periodic variations in temperature and sea surface temperature, contributing to the variability of extreme weather events such as heatwaves, droughts and floods.

Drier than normal rainfall conditions in some parts of the country from July to September are generally associated with the El Niño phase.

Burkina Faso is extremely vulnerable to water stressors. In the north of the country, there are no year-round rivers, and the entire country has only two perennial rivers: the Mouhoun and Nakambe. As a result, people in the north are increasingly dependent on wells, domestic tanks and other intermittent water supplies for their domestic needs. Many people also depend on surface water sources. Consequently, any climate crisis, such as drought, is likely to become a water crisis in the country. Heat-related mortality in the Sahel is expected to quadruple by 2080.

The major climatic risks to water resources in Burkina Faso are droughts, floods and erosion, which affect the quality and quantity of water supplies. The north and centre of the country are especially vulnerable to floods resulting from successive drought periods. Over the last 30 years, several major floods have occurred

¹ The analysis for this section has been supported by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre: <https://www.climatecentre.org/>

in these regions. Erosion during floods and drought increases the turbidity of water and contaminates it with other pollutants. Climatic risks also damage water infrastructure, increasing the risks of contamination of water supplies.

Burkina Faso's economy and livelihoods are highly vulnerable to climate change due to heavy reliance on small-scale subsistence agriculture coupled with very low adaptive capacity. Agriculture is the predominant sector of the country's economy, contributing more than 30 per cent of GDP. In addition, 86 per cent of the population depend on small-scale subsistence agriculture (crops and livestock) for their livelihoods. Due to climate change, rainfall variability and declining rainfall distribution are likely to affect agricultural production, income and livelihoods, and food security.

According to [FAO](#), a third of the landscape is degraded in Burkina Faso. This means that more than nine million hectares of land once used for agriculture can no longer be used, and it is projected that degradation will continue to expand at 360,000 hectares per year. If the situation is not reversed, forests are at risk of being cleared to make way for agricultural land.

Main actions and areas of support

The Burkinabe Red Cross is part of the IFRC [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the most vulnerable and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

With the support of the IFRC network, the focus of the Burkinabe Red Cross will be on reducing current and future humanitarian impacts of climate and environmental crises, and helping people to adapt and thrive in the face of them. This will be achieved through integrating climate risk management into all programmes, operations and advocacy. It will prioritize nature-based solutions and disaster risk reduction by developing early warning mechanisms, and it will link humanitarian action with development to build community resilience.

Communities and stakeholders working with the National Society will be trained on specific climate change actions in a way that ensures climate change adaptation and environmental protection measures are sustainable. This will involve adapting farming techniques and planting trees, improving water management that allows for developing vegetable crops, and promoting the use of improved stoves.

As part of the IFRC's Pan-African Tree Planting and Care Initiative, the National Society will contribute to the fight against climate change and environmental degradation by planting and maintaining trees in areas suffering from desertification and land degradation due to adverse weather conditions and poor land use practices.

The National Society will also be integrating climate change issues into its organizational culture, which involves adopting behaviours that will curb greenhouse gas emissions.

Disasters and crises

Ranked 15th out of 191 countries by the INFORM Risk Index 2022, Burkina Faso is among the highest-risk countries in the world. For several years, the country has experienced a growing crisis that combines climatic effects, insecurity and violence, displacement and other factors that are making humanitarian conditions and food insecurity more complex.

Since 2016, the security situation in Burkina Faso has deteriorated considerably, with multiple attacks perpetrated by armed opposition groups in several regions of the country. This situation has led to the displacement of more than 1.9 million people in the country's 13 regions as of 30 April 2022. These displaced people are living in extreme poverty and need emergency multi-sectoral assistance.

Natural hazards are recurrent and have become increasingly violent in recent years. Floods, high winds and pockets of drought affect thousands of people every year and cause significant material damage. Over the past 10 years, more than 450,000 people have been affected by floods.

In addition, between 384,000 and 412,000 hectares of land have been abandoned or not cultivated, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, contributing to the decline in cereal production, which is already under pressure. The 2021–2022 agro-pastoral campaign was negatively affected by pockets of drought, floods and seed-eating birds. At least 19 provinces have been declared deficient.

The Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management is mandated to manage disasters and similar emergencies through the following actions:

- Preparing national disaster plans to prevent and mitigate the consequences of disasters
- Monitoring, evaluating and updating national disaster plans
- Ensuring the provision of adequate facilities for technical training and the institution of educational programmes to ensure public awareness
- Establishing warning systems and general preparedness of its personnel and the general public
- Ensuring there are suitable and adequate facilities to provide relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction after any disaster
- Coordinating local and international support for disaster relief or emergency control and reconstruction

However, these aspirations are hampered by a lack of resources. The Burkinabe Red Cross works closely with the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management and is a member of the national coordination forum in disaster management, contributing to the national disaster risk management efforts.

Main actions and areas of support

The Burkinabe Red Cross is responding to the food crisis in the country through the IFRC's Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal and aligning the response plan with the IFRC Pan-African Zero Hunger Initiative, which aims to combat famine.

Since 2017, thanks to funding from ECHO, the National Society has provided multi-sectoral assistance to internally displaced people and host populations in the form of food, water, sanitation, hygiene and dignity kits, shelter and non-food items, and health and nutrition. In 2020 and 2021, 346,574 people were assisted.

To better cope with crises and natural disasters, the Burkinabe Red Cross strengthens the capacities of at-risk communities through the following actions:

- Conducting simulation exercises
- Carrying out development activities
- Creating and rehabilitating sustainable habitats
- Raising awareness in communities on disaster risks

The National Society also carries out response interventions to benefit vulnerable people affected by crises and disasters. The main interventions include the categories of relief and rescue, emergency shelters and non-food item kits, water, sanitation and hygiene, food security and livelihoods, health, protection and restoration of family links.

To enable people affected by crises and disasters to regain their initial living conditions and strengthen their resilience in the face of hazards, the National Society supports vulnerable communities by developing recovery actions such as constructing transitional and sustainable housing and implementing income-generating activities.

Throughout the years, the Burkinabe Red Cross has acquired considerable experience in using vouchers and mobile money. The cash transfer modality constitutes the priority modality in humanitarian response, and this is materialized through multi-sectoral cash assistance to displaced and host communities as well as in humanitarian assistance to migrants. In the last two years, almost 10,000 households have received cash voucher assistance.

As part of disaster preparedness at the national level, the Burkinabe Red Cross participates in the National Committee for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR) consultation framework and the development of disaster management tools such as the national multi-risk plan, Civil Protection response (ORSEC) plan, and simulation exercises on emergency relief with the Directorate General for Civil Protection.

At the local level, the Burkinabe Red Cross participates in elaborating multi-hazard contingency plans, setting up, training and providing equipment for early warning committees constituted by Red Cross volunteers and community members. It works in collaboration with the authorities, carrying out [vulnerability and capacity assessments](#) (VCAs). It also shares the results with local authorities through the organization of education sessions on disaster risks.

In 2023 and beyond, the overall priorities of the Burkinabe Red Cross in addressing disasters and crises, with the support of the IFRC network, are to:

- Provide vulnerable people in emergencies with rapid and adapted multi-sectoral assistance
- Develop digital money transfers for rapid cash and voucher assistance

- Ensure access to innovative, environmentally friendly and safe shelters for vulnerable people
- Strengthen sustainable livelihoods
- Build community resilience to crises and disasters in a sustainable manner
- Strengthen access to the most vulnerable groups
- Improve the safety management capabilities of the National Society

In line with the IFRC Pan-Africa Red Ready initiative, a specific focus will be given to crisis preparedness by building community resilience to hazards. This includes early warning, early action and anticipation to mitigate the risks of multi-hazard events negatively affecting the lives, livelihoods, homes and living conditions of vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities.

National Society disaster response teams will be equipped with the necessary skills and tools, including pre-positioning stocks according to disaster profiles across the country. Community-based disaster response units will be strengthened through improved training of volunteers. In 2024 and beyond, VCAs will be put in place to assess and address critical risks affecting communities.

Health and wellbeing

The health situation in Burkina Faso remains a serious concern. The growing security crisis has had a substantial impact on the health system, thus reducing its service offer. As of 20 April 2022, 185 health facilities were closed and 320 others were operating at minimum capacity, depriving two million people of access to care. The effects on health are represented by an increase in morbidity linked to endemic diseases such as malaria, measles and diarrheal diseases.

Each year, Burkina Faso is faced with a high prevalence of malnutrition in all its forms among the most vulnerable population groups. According to a national nutrition survey conducted in 2020, acute malnutrition, chronic malnutrition and being underweight at the national level was 9.1 per cent, 24.9 per cent and 17.6 per cent respectively. The nutrition evaluation of women of child-bearing age showed a 4.1 per cent prevalence of acute malnutrition according to the brachial perimeter and 9.0 per cent according to the body mass index.

State actors and partners have developed several strategies through the promotion of infant and young child feeding practices, integrated management of acute malnutrition, micronutrient supplementation and the

implementation of nutrition-sensitive actions. However, multi-sectoral interventions are increasingly being promoted to address the multi-dimensional causes of malnutrition better.

It is estimated that the humanitarian crisis affects three million people who have seen their access to basic social services deteriorate and are in urgent need of water, hygiene and sanitation. Access rates to water and sanitation, which were 63 per cent and 23 per cent respectively before the security crisis, have fallen to 44 per cent and 14 per cent respectively in localities or communes hosting internally displaced persons. Burkina Faso is already heavily affected by structural problems of access to water. The scale of population displacement is creating an imbalance between the demand and capacity of water points, particularly in towns hosting large numbers of displaced people.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its secondary impacts will continue to affect people's health in 2023 and beyond. Over the past two years, the administration of effective vaccines has allowed for a return to normalcy, but national immunization coverage is below target. This is mainly attributed to a reluctance to vaccinate due to various myths and beliefs. The authorities need to maintain active communicable disease surveillance and a rapid response mechanism.

Main actions and areas of support

The Burkinabe Red Cross has actively participated alongside the Ministry of Health in the fight against epidemics. It has provided volunteers for vaccination campaigns (e.g., meningitis and COVID-19), provided protective equipment, and constructed a treatment centre in the Boulmiougou District as part of the Ebola response.

To tackle COVID-19, the Burkinabe Red Cross has led the sub-committee in charge of rumour management within the thematic group of risk communication and community engagement. It supported the Ministry of Health on other pillars, such as contact tracing and infection prevention and control. The response was to strengthen the skills of stakeholders, surveillance, following up contact cases and household disinfection. In recognition of its actions, the National Society received an honorary distinction from the Ministry of Health in December 2020.

The Burkinabe Red Cross, with technical support from the Belgian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and the IFRC, and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and local actors, implements an electronic mechanism

for detecting and reporting health risks associated with diseases of epidemic potential in real time. This ensures rapid intervention to save lives. Currently deployed in the health district of Kaya, the objective is to gradually scale up throughout the Burkinabè territory.

The fight against COVID-19 will be supported by a continent-wide initiative between the IFRC and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to invest in building resilient public health security infrastructure in Africa. Under the US\$39 million Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative funded by the Mastercard Foundation, the IFRC and African National Societies are building a programme to ensure that 60 per cent of African people are vaccinated against COVID-19. The partnership between the Mastercard Foundation and Africa CDC will support the procurement and delivery of tens of millions of COVID-19 vaccines and hasten economic recovery on the continent.

Under this programme, the Burkinabe Red Cross will deliver critical risk communication and community engagement activities to vulnerable communities, supporting the COVID-19 vaccine uptake. Other programme partners will provide procurement and logistics services to a central warehouse (UNICEF), in-country logistics (World Food Programme), managing COVID-19 vaccination centres (Amref Health Africa and GHSS) and safety surveillance (Akros).

The Burkinabe Red Cross will continue to provide critical support for the rollout of vaccines at the community level with the collaboration of Burkina Faso's health services and other stakeholders, including through the Africa CDC programme. Volunteers will engage with communities through community information centres, interactive radio and television sessions, and door-to-door campaigns. The National Society's contribution to accelerating immunization is well recognized by the Government and partners.

The Burkinabe Red Cross has considerable experience and capacities in designing and implementing emergency and development water, sanitation and hygiene projects and programmes. It has carried out a number of significant projects with international funding.

With support from the IFRC network, the Burkinabe Red Cross will continue its activities in the field of essential health (especially for children), nutrition (including income-generating activities for communities), water, sanitation (ecological in the face of climate change) and hygiene. Community engagement and empowerment

will be a key strategy for providing health information for communicable disease prevention among communities.

The overall priorities of the Burkinabe Red Cross in addressing health and water, sanitation and hygiene challenges are to:

- Strengthen community-based health interventions for the most vulnerable people
- Strengthen the supply of primary health care
- Provide an emergency response to epidemics and health crises
- Strengthen epidemiological surveillance through community approaches to monitoring health risks
- Strengthen community-based nutrition interventions for the most vulnerable children
- Provide holistic care for child victims of emergencies
- Offer psychosocial support services to people affected by crises and disasters
- Provide vulnerable households with increased access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene

Migration and displacement

Burkina Faso faces one of the most significant internal displacement crises in Africa, driven by poverty, inequality, uncommitted armed actors, environmental degradation and climate change. Between 2018 and the end of 2021, the number of internally displaced people increased from 47,000 to 1.6 million. At the same time, Burkina Faso hosts more than 22,700 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from Mali.

Internal displacement places additional burdens on already resource-stressed areas. The poorest and most drought-affected areas, such as the Liptako Gourma region, have experienced some of the highest levels of displacement and violence, with tensions exacerbated by diminishing water sources and arable land.

Burkina Faso is also a country of departure, transit and destination. Migration has been linked to resilience strategies adopted by local populations in the face of natural hazards, the long-term effects of climate change, conflict and violence, and the weakness of the local economy, particularly in rural areas. Burkina Faso remains an emigration country, with a negative net migration of 125,000 people in 2014–2019. Migration phenomena include:

Intra-regional migration

According to the 2019 General Census of Population and Housing, most foreign nationals in Burkina Faso are nationals of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) member countries, including Malians, Togolese, Beninese and Nigerians. Burkina Faso is in the middle of an east-west migration route that links the main centres of the Sahelian band. ECOWAS nationals who hold a valid travel document can benefit from the legal framework on freedom of movement, as defined in the 1979 ECOWAS Protocol and the four Supplementary Protocols adopted between 1985 and 1990. However, their access to essential services remains low, mainly due to socio-economic, language and administrative barriers.

Seasonal migration

To minimize the risks linked to climatic hazards, local populations use the seven-month dry season to migrate. This seasonal migration can evolve into longer-term migration for those searching for better living conditions near the urban centres of Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso, towards the gold panning sites, and the main destination countries, especially Côte d'Ivoire. Seasonal migration mainly concerns young people from rural areas. The gold panning sites also attract migrants from neighbouring countries. The co-existence of migrants and locals on these sites can generate conflicts.

Migration to North African countries and the Mediterranean

Burkina Faso is located along the main migration routes to the north, notably via Kantchari to Niger on the Niamey-Agadez axis and to Mali in the Gao region. Migrants of Burkinabe nationality use these migration routes, but there are also large numbers of nationals from other countries in the sub-region. According to the results of the AMiRA project baseline study conducted in November 2018, before COVID-19 and the outbreak of violence, most transit migrants stay in the country for up to three months. Many migrants moving through Burkina Faso are forced to take dangerous jobs to earn a living, either to continue their journey or cover basic needs, including food, health care and shelter.

Return of migrants

As in other countries in the sub-region, migrant who return to Burkina Faso differ considerably in their legal and humanitarian nature, in that they can be spontaneous, assisted or forced returns. Reintegration challenges are particularly acute for those who return against their will, often after a traumatic migration path.

Main actions and areas of support

The Burkinabe Red Cross has extensive experience working with migrants and displaced people. The response to internal displacement is integral to the National Society's overall disaster risk management. For other types of population movements, it seeks to offer the most appropriate services based on analysis and understanding of the specific situations and needs. The National Society has been part of the IFRC network AMiRA project, covering Guinea, Burkina Faso, Mali, Sudan, Egypt and Niger, aimed at providing humanitarian assistance, psychosocial support and information on the journey to migrants in transit in Burkina Faso, as well as supporting reintegration.

The Burkinabe Red Cross is part of the IFRC three-year [Global Route-Based Migration Programme](#), which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually through three operational pillars: Improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points; strengthening National Society capacities; and local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

The overall priorities of the National Society in addressing migration challenges, with the IFRC network, are:

- Assisting and protecting migrants along migration routes and improving their access to essential services
- Building the capacities of state and non-state actors working in the field of migration
- Strengthening public policies for the protection of migrants targeted at the most vulnerable migrants, developed and implemented at local and national level in each of the target countries

To achieve this, the IFRC will intensify its efforts to strengthen the capacity of the Burkinabe Red Cross on psychosocial support and legal assistance, to provide appropriate humanitarian services to people affected by migration and displacement (including returns) in coordination with relevant local and international actors.

Values, power and inclusion

The security crisis in Burkina Faso is causing significant protection issues. Initially located in the Sahel region, insecurity has now spread to eight of the 13 regions of the country: Sahel, East, North, Centre-North, Boucle

du Mouhoun, Hauts-Bassins, Cascades and South-West. Attacks lead to the departure of administrations in some areas, and people are left to their own devices. These security vacuums create benefits for criminal activities and lead to smuggling of all kinds. Armed groups are most active in the Sahel, North, Centre-North and East regions, while the centre part is most characterized by criminal activities.

Food insecurity, health centre and school closures, overcrowded classrooms and inadequate infrastructure expose children, particularly girls, to risks such as gender-based violence, sexual abuse and exploitation. Given the precarious security situation, there could be a considerable increase in the number of vulnerable children.

In 2019, Burkina Faso had a strong media sector with 70 newspapers, 150 radio channels, 21 private television channels and 14 websites dedicated to online information. Social media networks create new problems, such as the rapid and large-scale propagation of rumours. This has created a need to increase community engagement and be even more accountable.

Main actions and areas of support

Protecting vulnerable children and promoting education are priorities for the Burkinabe Red Cross. It will strengthen the restoring links for unaccompanied children initiative, as well as the protection and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence component in schools. It will provide people at risk and survivors

of sexual and gender-based violence with increased capacity to prevent, respond to and mitigate the risks.

The Burkinabe Red Cross's risk communication and community engagement and accountability work has been instrumental in its response to COVID-19. The National Society has considerable experience in implementing mechanisms for collecting non-personal data of people in situations of displacement or mobility, ensuring data protection and avoiding risks related to data management, while providing real-time information to monitor the humanitarian situation. These information management and reporting mechanisms allow the National Society to constantly adapt its response to the context.

The Burkinabe Red Cross has experience in implementing complaint and feedback mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability towards the participating population, and it obtains valuable feedback to improve its actions. This information is extremely useful for establishing more precise interventions in the future. The National Society will continue to reinforce community engagement and accountability, and more systematically integrate the approach into its working methods.

The involvement of minority groups and the participation of all gender identities and backgrounds is essential to ensure inclusiveness. The National Society will train staff and volunteers to adopt an inclusive approach to programming, ensuring that protection, gender and inclusion issues are included in all its programming.

Enabling local actors

The Burkinabe Red Cross is committed to its institutional strengthening and has carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process twice, in 2012 and 2017. The self-assessment part of the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies within a range of organizational capacities.

The National Society aims to become more effective, accountable and well-functioning, and forge more partnerships that reach people in need. In 2023, the IFRC network will support the Burkinabe Red Cross to become a partner of choice for implementing humanitarian activities in Burkina Faso.

Engaged

The main objectives of the Burkinabe Red Cross are to:

- Strengthen external communication and marketing
- Promote humanitarian principles and values
- Pursue a digital transformation, including the rehabilitation and improvement of the computer network infrastructure; the introduction of business and data management applications and tools; the development of the business continuity plan; a business resumption plan and an information systems security policy; the strengthening of the capacity of staff on business applications and other useful software; and raising awareness of cybersecurity and data protection

Accountable

The National Society will develop a resource mobilization unit and strategy to help generate resources that cover core and programme costs.

The IFRC will assist the National Society in further developing a robust national operational plan alongside a mechanism for monitoring and reporting on the plan for accountability to partners.

The Burkinabe Red Cross, together with the IFRC, will develop a strategy and action plan to mitigate the risks of fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse. It will also strengthen financial management within its own branches to increase efficiency.

Trusted

The main objectives of the Burkinabe Red Cross are to:

- Strengthen the National Society's status as an auxiliary of public authorities to improve institutional collaboration with state structures
- Develop volunteerism based on the community role of the Red Cross, in particular by strengthening the community base of the National Society
- Strengthen volunteer management
- Set up and develop 'model' Red Cross committees that are open to all and capable of delivering quality services to vulnerable people in the communities
- Improve safety and security management for National Society staff and volunteers

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Burkinabe Red Cross from its country cluster delegation in Niamey, Niger. The IFRC's support centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

The IFRC's strategic coordination role is to support the National Society in addressing key humanitarian challenges and trends and ensuring that the National Society is up to date, relevant and influential in Burkina Faso. This is in line with the IFRC's National Society development compact, ensuring that National Societies are prepared to respond to emergencies while achieving and maintaining a sustainable organization in full respect of the fundamental principles.











The IFRC in Burkina Faso also works alongside International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners to strengthen the auxiliary role of the National Society. The IFRC promotes National Society activities and advocates with local stakeholders and state institutions in humanitarian fields. These include the ministries of health, women, national solidarity, family, humanitarian action, education, agriculture and hydro-agricultural facilities, water and sanitation, environment and territorial administration and decentralization.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Burkinabe Red Cross through several [DREF operations](#) for food insecurity, population movement and floods. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its [Global Emergency Appeal](#), has supported the National Society's COVID-19 response.

The IFRC's sectoral and capacity-building support to the Burkinabe Red Cross includes:

- Disaster risk management with a focus on floods, food security and livelihoods preparedness and response
- Promoting community-based approaches both for preventing and responding to epidemics, risk communication and community engagement
- Emergency support for population movement and the involvement of the National Society in a region-wide IFRC-led project focused on migratory routes
- Cross-cutting areas such as community engagement and accountability, protection, gender and inclusion
- Cash and voucher assistance, including setting up a sub-regional working group

Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

Name of Partner NS	Funding Requirements	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
Belgian Red Cross	CHF 6.13M								
Danish Red Cross	CHF 0.95M								
Finnish Red Cross	CHF 0.44M								
Luxembourg Red Cross	CHF 5.60M								
Monaco Red Cross	CHF 0.57M								
Spanish Red Cross	CHF 2.23M								

Total

15.92M

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, situations and needs and co-develop common strategies to address issues. These usually involve obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space, funding and other resources. Together, the IFRC and member National Societies agree common priorities, clarify consistent public messaging and monitor progress.

This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes have the required clarity on humanitarian action and development assistance, and reinforce the auxiliary role of National Societies in their respective countries.

The Burkinabe Red Cross is involved in the four IFRC Pan-African initiatives focusing on Tree Planting and Care, Zero Hunger, Red Ready and National Society Development. These initiatives are reflected in the relevant sections of this plan.

Following an IFRC incentive to create regional networks in Africa, the Sahel+ Group was established in 2017 as a regional network of 10 National Societies, including the Burkinabe Red Cross, aiming to strengthen cooperation and coordination in the Sahel. Throughout the years, the Sahel+ Group established several initiatives on key

topics of interest in the region. It has also been a vehicle for discussing global initiatives and joint programming.

Burkina Faso is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) (PPP) between the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and the IFRC, and the Burkinabe Red Cross benefits from the support of Belgian Red Cross (as lead EU National Society), Luxembourg Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross for the implementation of activities in the areas of disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, cash and voucher assistance, risk communication, and community engagement and accountability.

The partnership meets the realities of extended crises with longer-term predictable funding, facilitating actions and processes with greater impact. It leverages the IFRC's global network and unique access to people and communities, and it helps to fulfil the ambitions of the European Union as the biggest donor of international aid in the world.

The Burkinabe Red Cross also works with several participating National Societies in longer-term technical and financial partnerships, which contribute to the priorities of this country plan:

The **Belgian Red Cross** has been present in Burkina Faso for more than 20 years, supporting and accompanying the Burkinabe Red Cross in the execution of emergency and development programmes. It has supported the National Society with reintegration programmes for vulnerable children in urban and rural areas, an integrated community health programme aimed at strengthening the resilience of communities, and assistance to the most disadvantaged mothers. It has also been working with the Burkinabe Red Cross on a programme to combat malnutrition and accompany communities to develop resilience mechanisms in the face of food insecurity. Bringing its expertise in cash transfers, the Belgian Red Cross has supported the National Society to adapt its emergency response.

Along with Luxembourg Red Cross, the Belgian Red Cross has supported the Burkinabe Red Cross's humanitarian response in the Sahel and Centre-North Regions since December 2017. This multi-sectoral response, mainly in cash transfers, provided assistance to almost 90,000 displaced people in 2022.

The Belgian Red Cross supports the Burkinabe Red Cross in capacity building through all its projects, including community resilience, community-based health and nutrition, and mental health and psychosocial support. The Belgian Red Cross also supports the construction of provincial committee headquarters, the construction and extension of National Society buildings and structures, the establishment of institutional income-generating activities, and the digitalization process.

The **British Red Cross** has given the Burkinabe Red Cross technical and financial support since 2016 through a programme to strengthen the National Society on Food Security and Livelihoods and cash transfers. Through this programme, it supported the development of the National Society's food security and livelihoods strategy, and staff and volunteer capacity building. The training covered introductory livelihoods work, emergency livelihoods assessments, market analysis, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of resilience projects, capitalization of experience on livelihood projects, digital data collection in the Centre-North and Sahel, and cash transfers.

In 2021–2023, the British Red Cross is financing a community surveillance project setting up sentinel sites for food security, livelihoods and nutrition in the Centre-North. In the coming years, it will also support the Burkinabe Red Cross on the issue of social protection.

The **Luxembourg Red Cross** and the Burkinabe Red Cross have a partnership that goes back more than 50 years. Since 2005, the Luxembourg Red Cross has been present in Burkina Faso, implementing emergency and development projects through its delegation. Since the response to the 2009 floods in Ouagadougou, the Luxembourg Red Cross has continued to help the Burkinabe Red Cross better prepare and respond to possible disasters while striving to reduce the vulnerability of communities.

The Luxembourg Red Cross is currently present in nine of the 13 regions of Burkina Faso, and it supports the Burkinabe Red Cross in line with its strategic objectives. Several institutional and community-based projects, both emergency and disaster prevention, have been implemented in different regions of the country.

With the multi-faceted crisis that Burkina Faso has been experiencing for the past few years, the Luxembourg Red Cross has supported the Burkinabe Red Cross in preparedness actions by training staff, volunteers and communities, establishing early warning committees, developing culturally and climatically appropriate prototypes, and pre-positioning kits.

To better support the Burkinabe Red Cross's actions, the Luxembourg Red Cross has developed expertise in the distribution of shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene kits. This guarantees a better level of protection and hygiene for beneficiaries of the National Society in Burkina Faso, and protecting the population's environment against climatic hazards. The Luxembourg Red Cross has also focused on improving local and traditional house building techniques and supporting protection initiatives for land management.

The partnership between the **Red Cross of Monaco** and the Burkinabe Red Cross started with a first aid project in 2009, which was followed by an official partnership agreement in 2011. Subsequently, the Red Cross of Monaco supported the implementation of water, hygiene and community health projects in Youga, the Protection Education Project for Young Girls, Family Helpers, the Resilience and Food Security project, the Expo Milan 2015 / Loumbila Multipurpose Training Centre project, and the Water, Hygiene, Sanitation and Food Diversification project in the Poni province.

The Red Cross of Monaco supports child protection, water, sanitation and hygiene, food security and livelihoods, and institutional development.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** and the Burkinabe Red Cross collaborated between 2013 and 2016 on a community health project in the Mangodora region, implemented by the Burkinabe Red Cross with support from the IFRC.

In line with its own international strategy 2021–2023 and in view of the increase in humanitarian needs due to rising conflict and violence in the wider Sahel region, the Norwegian Red Cross initiated re-engagement in 2021 to support the Movement’s humanitarian response in Burkina Faso, this time through the deployment of a Norwegian Red Cross community health delegate. This was within the framework of the Inclusive Country Response Agreement signed between the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Norwegian Red Cross, and a tripartite operational agreement signed between the Burkinabe Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross and the ICRC.

The Norwegian Red Cross provides technical and financial support for the health sector in Burkina Faso, extending care by linking quality community health programmes to functioning primary health services. It also strengthens the Burkinabe Red Cross’s financial accountability and ability to manage finances effectively and efficiently. This improves its ability to attract and manage increased funding, thereby increasing its capacity to respond to humanitarian needs.

Programmatic and operational co-creation between the Burkinabe Red Cross, the ICRC and the Norwegian Red Cross in the area of health complements the quality of community health activities. This is managed and implemented by the Burkinabe Red Cross with technical

support from the Norwegian Red Cross and access to services provided by the ICRC.

The Norwegian Red Cross is interested in exploring the value and feasibility of extending the Burkinabe Red Cross’s work to provide primary health care services. The aim of this would be to serve areas with significant health needs, where other actors have difficulty accessing due to conflict and violence.

The **Spanish Red Cross** has been present in Burkina Faso since 1993. It collaborates with the Burkinabe Red Cross in multi-sectoral projects, with a particular focus on the protection of and humanitarian assistance to displaced persons affected by the migration crisis in the Sahel region, aggravated by the conflict situation in the country. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Spanish Red Cross also supported the National Society response, working with national authorities within the framework of the IFRC global Emergency Appeal.

This longstanding collaboration also covers emergency response, improving local capacity to implement cash and voucher assistance, strengthening food security and livelihoods, implementing climate-friendly practices, empowering local producers and promoting women’s access to livelihoods. Other areas of intervention are related to community engagement and empowerment, water, sanitation and hygiene.

The Spanish Red Cross has five delegates in Burkina Faso and its main donors are the European Union through the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, UNICEF and the Department for International Development of the British Government.

Movement coordination

Collaboration between the Movement’s partners is organized through a Movement Coordination Agreement, signed by the Burkinabe Red Cross, the IFRC and the ICRC. This agreement defines the roles and responsibilities and the terms for coordination between the Movement’s actors in Burkina Faso, including a security framework. Meetings are organized according to needs during emergencies, such as in the case of the current food security crisis. The ICRC is providing support and guidance on the ongoing security situation in

Yagha. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

In close collaboration with the Burkinabe Red Cross, in areas affected by armed violence, the ICRC assists displaced people, organizes cattle vaccination campaigns and facilitates access to health care and clean water. The ICRC also visits detainees and promotes respect for international humanitarian law.

Coordination with other actors

The Burkinabe Red Cross supports the Government by implementing its humanitarian and development policies and strategies. The National Society's Strategic Plan 2021–2030 is also aligned with the Government's economic and social development plan. As an auxiliary to the public authorities and under the supervision of the Ministry of Women, National Solidarity and Humanitarian Action, the Burkinabe Red Cross maintains an excellent relationship with government institutions.

Due to its presence at all levels of administrative divisions, the Burkinabe Red Cross participates in various state platforms. It collaborates with multiple ministries and decentralized state services in the development and monitoring of its projects and programmes. This ensures its actions comply with national guidelines and standards in all areas of intervention, including health, disaster management, water, sanitation and hygiene, food security and livelihoods, and according to the Fundamental Principles of the Movement.

The Burkinabe Red Cross works closely with the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management, the Ministry of Health, the General Directorate of Civil Protection, and the National Committee for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation, of which it is an effective member.

The Burkinabe Red Cross and its IFRC network partners actively participate in coordination meetings of different inter-agency clusters such as health, nutrition, food security, water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter and protection. They also participate in inter-cluster meetings and meetings of technical sub-groups, such as the cash working group and the community engagement and accountability group. They are active members of the Rapid Response Coordination Group. For Burkina Faso's various regions, they also participate in the consultation frameworks of different clusters and technical groups.

For the food insecurity response, the National Society and the IFRC have had bilateral meetings with the United Nations World Food Programme, which is the food security cluster lead, to discuss the response plan to the hunger crisis and the deteriorating security situation in Yagha province. The National Society and the IFRC have also participated in the bi-weekly food security cluster meetings and specific meetings on Yagha province.

The Burkinabe Red Cross works with United Nations agencies to implement activities that contribute to the implementation of humanitarian intervention plans in Burkina Faso.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) data
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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