



# USAID | BURKINA FASO

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## COUNTRY PROFILE

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PHOTO CREDIT: M. Corzine

A woman shows off one of the goats she cares for through habbanayé, a traditional livestock sharing practice.

### OVERVIEW

Burkina Faso, a landlocked country in the increasingly unstable Sahel region, continues to experience high poverty rates. Burkina Faso's population is mostly rural (71%) and population growth is high (3%). Most residents of Burkina Faso rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. Burkina Faso is also prone to recurrent natural disasters such as drought, floods and locust invasions, which have grown increasingly frequent and severe. Following the 2014 political crisis that saw the country's president removed from power, the country is working to build civil and democratic institutions to ensure a stable democracy.

Despite a push by the government to reduce the number of food insecure individuals in the country, roughly 20 percent of the population of Burkina Faso is food insecure. The country is extremely vulnerable to external trade shocks, which can limit economic growth. In addition, Burkina Faso continues to host more than 30,000 Malian refugees. In concert with other United States Government bodies, USAID supports Burkina Faso's efforts to confront the country's greatest development challenges, including enhancing agricultural production, improving mother and child nutrition, reducing the burden of malaria and building vibrant civil and democratic institutions.

### PROGRAMS

#### DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE

USAID works with Burkina Faso's parliament to support new national assembly members in their representation, legislation and oversight functions. USAID also provides technical assistance to civil society organizations, including political parties, in developing issue-based platforms and the capacity to monitor electoral processes for national elections. To strengthen the electoral process, USAID partners with Burkina Faso's electoral commission to support proper voting procedures and ensure best practices as a means to build confidence in the electoral process.

USAID works with youth, religious leaders, civil society and local governments to reduce the risk of instability and increase resilience to violent extremism. Using a holistic, community-led approach, USAID builds economic opportunities, promotes moderate voices, fosters civic participation and promotes government responsiveness. The target population in Burkina Faso is women and youth who are often marginalized from the political process and who are more prone to being recruited by violent extremist organizations.

#### ENHANCING RESILIENCE: AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

In addition to long standing efforts in improving agriculture and food security, USAID has a multi-sectoral and regional program to increase the resilience of chronically vulnerable populations in eight provinces in Burkina Faso's regions of the Sahel. The program aims to diversify communities' and households' economic opportunities while increasing profitability of their current farming practices. It also assists in creating stronger institutions for these populations to manage natural resources and to reduce conflict and disaster risk. Finally, the resilience program seeks to improve the health and nutrition of these vulnerable populations.

#### BURKINA FASO SNAPSHOT

Year of independence: 1960  
Population: 17.1 million (2013)  
GDP per person (PPP): \$1668 (2014)  
Source: World Bank

#### USAID IN BURKINA FASO

<http://www.usaid.gov/burkinafaso>



# USAID | BURKINA FASO

## COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

### GLOBAL HEALTH

Despite some progress, the high level of poverty in Burkina Faso contributes to a dire health situation. Malnutrition and malaria are widespread, and many citizens have little or no access to basic health care or clean water. USAID's primary focus in the health sector is on expanding the prevention of and treatment for malaria. USAID works closely with the Government of Burkina Faso to reduce morbidity and mortality due to malaria, primarily targeting children under 5 years old and pregnant women as the populations most vulnerable to this disease. USAID's efforts on malnutrition focus on improving the health of pregnant women, lactating mothers and young children by providing education and training to women regarding feeding practices and improving the quality of a family's diet. Burkina Faso is also a phase one priority country for the US government's role in supporting the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA), which seeks to accelerate progress toward a world safe and secure from infectious disease threats and to promote global health security as an international security priority.

### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

As of August 2015, Burkina Faso continued to host more than 30,000 Malian refugees, the majority of whom reside in food-insecure northern regions, where already-scarce host community resources are strained by the presence of additional families. USAID's Food for Peace (FFP) office partners with the World Food Program to provide emergency food assistance to this refugee population in the form of commodities and cash resources.

### FIELD OFFICE AND SUPPORT STRUCTURES

USAID Burkina Faso, a limited presence office in Ouagadougou, comprises a USAID Representative and a team of dedicated local and international development specialists who monitor programs and serve as core advisors for U.S. Government development activities in Burkina Faso. In addition to USAID programs, the Department of Agriculture, Department of Labor, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Peace Corps, the African Development Foundation and the Department of State are all active in development efforts. USAID Senegal's Sahel Regional Office, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and Food for Peace (FFP) regional offices and the USAID/West Africa Regional Mission in Accra, Ghana share the management responsibility for development and humanitarian programs in Burkina Faso.

#### USAID IN BURKINA FASO

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