



Country Specific Information

Burkina Faso Multi-Year Development Food and Nutrition Security Activity

Fiscal Years 2018 – 2023

I. Summary

The U.S. Agency for International Development’s (USAID’s) Office of Food for Peace (FFP) intends to award one cooperative agreement to implement multi-year activities with the goal of sustainably improving food and nutrition security and resilience among extremely poor and chronically vulnerable households and communities in the Central Northern Region (referred to as Centre-Nord) in Burkina Faso. Burkina Faso will follow the Refine and Implement (R&I) approach. Please see Appendix II to the RFA for additional information on R&I for this application process.

The anticipated funding for this new multi-year development food and nutrition security activity is approximately \$50 million for a five-year period, in Title II resources, subject to the availability of funds and commodities. With appropriate justification, applicants may request funding for in-kind Title II commodities, support for local and/or regional procurement of food commodities, cash transfers and vouchers. Monetization is not authorized.

The proposed development food and nutrition security activities are not intended to be “stand alone” activities. FFP investments will contribute to the achievement of the Government of Burkina Faso’s (GoBF) National Plan for Economic and Social Development (PNDES), USAID’s FFP Strategy¹ and the U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy (GFSS).² They will also serve as the foundation for USAID’s Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced II (RISE II) initiative, which aims to help “*chronically vulnerable populations in Burkina Faso and Niger, supported by resilient systems, effectively manage shocks and stresses and pursue sustainable pathways out of poverty.*” FFP investments will work in coordination with other investments by

¹ <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1867/FFP-Strategy-FINAL%2010.5.16.pdf>

² <https://www.feedthefuture.gov/article/administrator-green-announces-next-phase-feed-future-first-international-trip>

the U.S. Government (USG), the World Food Program (WFP), the host country government and other donors to benefit collectively chronically vulnerable populations in the RISE II zone.³ While the FFP activity should support the RISE II results framework, it is not intended to address all Intermediate Results (IRs) and sub-IRs. Applicants should be strategic in their selection of activities and prioritize activities that will have the most impact on food and nutrition security. This activity is part of a collaborative effort and is expected to focus on interventions at the household, community and commune levels. Other RISE II investments will focus on complementary activities at the community, commune, regional, and national levels. Based on their proposed theory of change, identified gaps and current needs, applicants may propose activities at higher levels. However, applicants should be aware of planned activities of RISE II investments, and should expect that during the first year of startup, as other RISE II activities are finalized, applicants may need to adjust their design to better integrate and coordinate with those activities. The successful applicant will demonstrate meaningful connections with existing institutions and other actors in the targeted regions, and fit within the strategic approach of the RISE II initiative.

USAID’s 2012 Policy and Programming Guidance on Building Resilience to Recurrent Crisis defines resilience as “the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.” In short, resilience is the ability to manage adversity and change without compromising future well-being. As this suggests, resilience is a necessary condition—or set of capacities—for reducing and ultimately eliminating poverty, hunger, malnutrition, and humanitarian assistance needs in the complex risk environments in which USAID works and poor and chronically vulnerable people live. For more information on USAID’s resilience work, visit: <https://www.usaid.gov/resilience>.

Applicants, as a first step, must set a clear methodology for identifying the target population, taking into account the existing GoBF’s targeting strategy.⁴ Poorest households should be intentionally targeted. The proposed activity should benefit the poorest households and respond to their specific needs, while ensuring they have appropriate knowledge and skills to exercise agency.

II. Context Analysis

II (a) Country Level

³ Please see Annex 1 for the results framework that has been developed for this RISE II program.

⁴ National Council for Social Protection, Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso is marked by deep poverty, rapid population growth, vulnerability to extremism, and distressed migration coupled with environmental, social and economic fragility. Burkina Faso ranked third from last out of 188 countries in the Human Development Index in 2016.⁵ More than 43 percent of the population lives on \$1.90 USD a day or less, and approximately 80 percent of the population lives on less than \$3 USD per day.⁶ Members of the poorest households remain largely excluded from access to basic social services and infrastructure.⁷ Burkinabé are also highly exposed to shocks. For example, according to the RISE baseline survey in the Burkina Faso RISE zone, during the previous year 60 percent of households experienced drought-related shock, 27 percent experienced animal disease outbreak, and 18 percent had a significant health expense⁸.

Burkina Faso's economic growth rests on a very narrow base, fueled primarily by the rapid expansion of the public sector. As a result, the country lacks sufficient jobs to absorb its rapidly expanding population. Burkina Faso has the world's eighth highest population growth rate, 3.0 percent,⁹ and 80 percent of the workforce is employed in low-paid agricultural jobs.¹⁰ This is compounded by very low literacy rates. Nationwide only 35.5 percent of men are literate and 22.5 percent of women are literate. In rural areas, women's literacy rates fall to 11 percent.¹¹

A democratically elected government came into power in 2015 and has created a blueprint for development, called the PNDES, to organize its vision under a common plan. The PNDES is complemented by efforts to decentralize social services and revenue collection to communes, allowing these local governments to be more responsive to local needs. FFP seeks to carry out activities that fit within GoBF's framework, contribute to village and commune development plans, and foster local ownership of development initiatives that advance key food and nutrition goals.

Food and nutrition security in Burkina Faso have improved dramatically since the devastating 2011–2012 drought. However, this positive trend seems to stem from favorable short-term weather conditions rather than a fundamental improvement in food security and resilience to shocks. Meantime, the longer-term climate outlook is not favorable. Rainfall data over a 30-year

⁵ http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/BFA.pdf

⁶ <http://povertydata.worldbank.org/poverty/country/BFA>

⁷ Ibid p. 35

⁸ USAID, 2016. pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00MFFC.pdf

⁹ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/uv.html>

¹⁰ <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/26572/SCD-Final-april-10-FINAL-002-de-002-04132017.pdf>

¹¹ USAID Office of Food for Peace Food Security Desk Review for Burkina Faso.

period show a decrease in total annual rainfall and an increase in the number of dry days.¹² If this trend continues, and if adaptation and mitigation measures are not widely adopted, there will be significant repercussions to cropping systems and livelihoods.

Households are coping with climate change by migrating, borrowing and shifting livelihoods. In the Nord, Sahel and Centre-Nord regions, small-scale gold mining is becoming increasingly important. The GoBF estimates that over half a million people are engaged in gold mining, and this figure appears to be growing and contributing to internal migration to mining areas. Gold mining is causing environmental destruction, providing dangerous working conditions for children and adults, and has not proven profitable for those working informally in the mines.¹³

Agriculture and livestock production remain the dominant livelihoods in Burkina Faso, with 90 percent of the labor force working in these sectors.¹⁴ The Sub-Saharan zone of Burkina Faso, in which much of the Centre-Nord Region lies, is characterized by weathered, sandy soils with low fertility, poor nutrient and moisture capacity, and low levels of organic matter.¹⁵ Combined with scarce and unpredictable rains, poor quality seeds, and a lack of irrigation and fertilizers, this severely limits agricultural yields.^{16,17}

A seed sector survey conducted by FAO in the Soum province found that 66 percent of households saved their own seed, while most of the rest accessed seed through social networks, local markets, certified seed vendors, or donor contributions.¹⁸ During climatic shocks, households are severely limited in their ability to save seed and many fall into seed insecurity.¹⁹ Yet even in water-limited, rain-fed systems, significant yield improvements are possible with improvements to soil fertility, soil management and seeds. Research suggests that the actual yields obtained by farmers in the dominant rain-fed cereal systems are only one quarter of the potential yields of those systems if nutrients and biotic stresses were non-limiting.²⁰

Despite an apparent reluctance to borrow, a national survey found that 22 percent of Burkinabé households are in debt.²¹ Many borrow to buy food, cover health expenses, feed livestock and

¹² Government of Burkina Faso. 2015. Burkina Faso National Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

¹³ Winkler and Straumann 2016

¹⁴ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/uv.html>

¹⁵ Krogh, 1993

¹⁶ Bationo et al., 1998

¹⁷ FAO, 2014

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ <http://www.yieldgap.org/burkina-faso>

²¹ WFP, 2012

pay school fees.²² The Sahel, Centre-Ouest, Nord and Boucle de Mouhoun regions have the highest percentage of indebted households, and on average, it took households four to six months to repay debt.²³ The prevalence of food insecurity was highest among households that borrowed to buy food (58 percent) or feed livestock (53 percent).²⁴

Nationally the stunting rate is 33 percent for children under five years old,²⁵ but stunting prevalence differs dramatically among regions, ranging from 35 percent in the Este to 15 percent in the Centre. About half of all households practice open defecation, almost half of all children aged 0 to 5 months do not get exclusive breastfeeding,²⁶ only 8 percent of children aged 6 to 23 months receive a minimum acceptable diet, and there are gaps in nutrition practices for mothers and adolescent girls. Acute malnutrition (wasting) affects 7.6 percent of children under 5 years of age, despite improvements in recent years.²⁷ An alarmingly high level of wasting among children aged 6 to 23 months suggests that likely causes may be unsafe practices related to feeding and care, and issues with water, sanitation and hygiene.²⁸ Only 67 percent of women reported receiving assistance with their most recent child delivery from a medically trained provider.²⁹ Additionally, high fertility rates (5.4 children per woman),³⁰ high rates of adolescent pregnancy, and poverty all hinder maternal health and nutrition.

Gender inequality is pervasive in Burkina Faso, and it is a significant underlying factor in food insecurity and malnutrition. Early childbearing, high fertility rates and women's lack of control over resources and decisions combine to weaken the food security and nutrition of Burkinabé women and their children.

Burkina Faso ranks 22nd among 52 African countries on the African Development Bank's Gender Equality Scale, and the Burkinabé government has passed policies and laws to counter gender discrimination. However, in practice, government law is often disregarded in favor of customary law, which discriminates against women in important realms such as property rights and household decision-making. Women also face major economic challenges in accessing loans and often are considered "high-risk applicants" by formal financial institutions.³¹ As for

²² Ibid

²³ Ibid

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ UNICEF, 2014

²⁶ 2010 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) for Burkina Faso; 2014 Malaria Indicator Survey (MIS) for Burkina Faso

²⁷ MOH et al., 2016

²⁸ MOH et al., 2015

²⁹ DHS, 2010

³⁰ DHS, 2015

³¹ OECD Social Institutions & Gender Index report on Burkina Faso.

decision-making power, 2010 data from the Burkinabé National Institute of Statistics and Demographics show that men primarily make decisions about women’s health and important household purchases (75 percent and 79 percent of cases surveyed, respectively).³² Men also tend to decide which crops are planted and where.³³ Women have lower literacy rates and receive less primary education than men: 22.5 percent of women are literate versus 35.5 percent of men,³⁴ and 3.4 percent of women have completed primary school versus 4.9 percent of men. However, it is important to note that literacy rates among adolescents, including women ages 15-24, are increasing.

Burkina Faso has the world’s tenth youngest population.³⁵ Half of all people are under 15 years old³⁶ and only 20 percent are older than 35 years.³⁷ People under 25 make up nearly 65 percent of informal workers but only 8 percent of formally employed workers.³⁸ Child labor in informal sectors, such as artisanal gold mining, is of particular concern.³⁹ The vulnerability of youth to recruitment by extremist groups may also be increasing, following a rise in cross-border attacks by terrorist groups from Mali. Finally, a majority of teenage boys and girls are sexually active both inside and outside unions. The average age at first sexual intercourse is 16.4 years for girls and 17.3 years for boys.⁴⁰ The percentage of Burkinabe men in marriages is much lower than the percentage for women, likely due in part to the practice of polygamy.⁴¹ Another factor may be the struggle young men face to transition to adulthood via traditional “measures” such as job, house and family. This may contribute to a sense of social disconnection among Burkinabé men.

Polygamous households make up an estimated 58 percent of all households in Burkina Faso.⁴² Women in all households have far less control over decision-making than men, and adolescent wives in polygamous marriages are especially disenfranchised⁴³. In Burkina Faso, 23 percent of adolescent girls are malnourished, the highest rate of any age group, and 58 percent of adolescent girls have begun childbearing by 19 years of age.⁴⁴ Adolescent pregnancy is associated with

³² Data cited in OECD Social Institutions & Gender Index report on Burkina Faso.

³³ USAID Office of Food for Peace Food Security Desk Review for Burkina Faso.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/05/the-world-s-10-youngest-countries-are-all-in-africa/>

³⁶ USAID Office of Food for Peace Food Security Desk Review for Burkina Faso

³⁷ (GoBF 2016) (cited in Desk Review)

³⁸ Youthpolicy.org, Burkina Faso, 2014, <http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/burkina-faso/>. (cited in RISE 2 draft)

³⁹ In 2011, UNICEF estimated that 30-50 percent of miners in Burkina Faso’s informal gold sector were children (Winkler and Straumann 2016, cited in the Desk Review: 29).

⁴⁰ WHO 2016, cited in the Desk Review: 56.

⁴¹ USAID Office of Food for Peace Food Security Desk Review for Burkina Faso.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid

⁴⁴ Ibid.

increased risk of poor maternal, birth, and neonatal outcomes and is a significant driver of low birth weight and stunting in children.

The Burkinabé population is growing at an average annual rate of 3 percent.⁴⁵ Culturally, rural Burkinabé tend to value large families, and women who bear many children hold respect within their communities. Data indicate there is an unmet desire for contraception among adolescent girls: 58.3 percent of unmarried, sexually active adolescent girls report not wanting a child in the next two years, yet only 52.7 percent of them are currently using any method to prevent pregnancy. Among married adolescent girls, 51.1 percent report not wanting a child in the next two years, yet only 8.5 percent are currently using any method to prevent pregnancy.⁴⁶

In Burkina Faso, labor migration (rural-rural, rural-urban and cross-border) represents a key livelihood strategy, and remittances from migrants contribute to household resilience.⁴⁷ While the vast majority of migrants are male,⁴⁸ women and girls also participate in labor migration. Male and female youth migrate to mining camps seeking increased incomes and independence, and they face a variety of risks in the process, from toxic chemical exposure to sexual violence.⁴⁹

Access to scarce water resources is central to life and livelihoods in Burkina Faso. Drought and water deficits have historically been a driver of the chronically high humanitarian caseload across the Sahel region.⁵⁰ Rural Burkinabés fare somewhat better than rural Nigeriens, with 48 percent enjoying access to basic drinking water versus 35 percent for Nigeriens. The positive impacts of water access – on health, nutrition, women’s time and dignity, and economic opportunity – cannot be overstated in the Sahel.⁵¹ Acute water needs remain in Burkina Faso, and population growth is rapidly outpacing water access gains.

Open defecation (67 percent in rural Burkina; 56 percent in Centre Nord) and minimal access to basic sanitation (11 percent in rural Burkina; 16 percent in Centre Nord) are strongly correlated with diarrheal disease and stunting worldwide. Though significant progress has been made,

⁴⁵ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/uv.html>

⁴⁶ USAID Office of Food for Peace Food Security Desk Review for Burkina Faso.

⁴⁷ In 2013, the World Bank estimated the value of remittances to Burkinabe households to be \$141 million.

⁴⁸ Plaza, S., Navarrete, M., & Ratha, D. (2011). *Migration and remittances household surveys in sub-Saharan Africa*. Methodological Aspects and Main Findings.

⁴⁹ Werthmann, Katja. “Working in a Boom-Town: Female Perspectives on Gold-Mining in Burkina Faso.” *Resources Policy, Small-Scale Mining, Poverty and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa*, 34, no. 1 (March 1, 2009): 18–23.

⁵⁰ The World Bank (2013). *AGRICULTURAL SECTOR RISK ASSESSMENT IN NIGER: Moving from Crisis Response to Long-Term Risk Management (REPORT NUMBER: 74322-NE)*.

⁵¹ Curtis et al. (1995). Potties, pits and pipes: explaining hygiene behaviour in Burkina Faso. *Soc Sci Med*: 41(3):383-93.

working on demand-driven sanitation in the Sahel presents a unique set of challenges - e.g., open defecation as an entrenched and widespread practice; social and cultural barriers around latrine use and placement; poverty levels that constrain households' ability to build even basic pit latrines; and the lack of a uniform subsidy approach across partners and the government.

There are unique challenges to improving sanitation behaviors in the Sahel—e.g., hygiene practices are largely absent from day-to-day norms (only 8 percent of rural Burkinabes have access to handwashing stations); hygiene practices are deprioritized in the face of scarce water resources; and customary use of the bouilloir for washing does not include soap.

Applicants should refer to the FFP Food Security Desk Review for Burkina Faso for additional background information on the unique food security, health, nutrition and shocks situations, and development opportunities. FFP has made available all its reports, research, analysis, data, maps, and evaluations for Burkina Faso. That information can be found on FFP's website. Applicants should also refer to the USAID/Sahel Regional office analysis and reports.⁵²

II (b) Activity Area

FFP has selected eleven (11) communes within Centre-Nord as possible sites for interventions.

- Namantenga province communes: Tougouri, Yalgo, Bouroum, Nagbingou
- Sanmatenga province communes: Dablo, Pensa, Namissiguima, Barsalogho, Pissila - excluding Pissila town
- Bam Province communes: Bourzanga, and Rollo

Applicants can propose specific target communes. In doing so, applicants need to explain the technical and operational criteria that influenced the refinement of geographic targets. Applicants should develop their own criteria to use for the selection of intervention sites. Possible factors to consider include need, complementary government or donor activities, and the potential for partnership with other stakeholders who could add to or amplify FFP's impact. USAID intends that all other RISE II activities will work in the Food for Peace supported areas.

Food Insecurity. The Centre Nord region is located in the central plateau and is one of the most food insecure zones in the country,⁵³ with the heaviest concentration of food-insecure

⁵² <https://www.usaid.gov/sahel-regional/newsroom/documents>; new documents will be posted as they become available

⁵³ USAID Office of Food for Peace Food Security Desk Review for Burkina Faso

households.⁵⁴ The area is also among the most vulnerable regions in Burkina Faso based on structural vulnerability analysis.⁵⁵

Nutrition. Stunting in children under 5 years of age in the Centre Nord region is approximately 25.5 percent,⁵⁶ which is lower than the national average in Burkina Faso. Wasting in children under age 5 is approximately 6 percent.⁵⁷ The final evaluation of the FASO activity, which was implemented in the Centre Nord, noted several improvements in key nutrition behaviors, however there was no significant reduction in rates of stunting, and levels of dietary diversity for women, children and infants are worrisomely low. The final evaluation also noted the need for health systems strengthening and better quality health service delivery, as well as challenges and opportunities related to this.

III. Conceptual Framework

The overarching goal of this activity is to sustainably improve the food and nutrition security and resilience of extremely poor and chronically vulnerable households. The activity should strengthen households' ability to identify and take advantage of transformational opportunities to learn, mitigate, adapt, invest and thrive, as well as strengthen the systems around households to support transformational change.

Guided by FFP's 2016–2025 Food Assistance and Food Security Strategy, and by the RISE II results framework, transformational outcomes, and operational principles (Annex 1), successful applicants will develop a coherent, evidence-based theory of change (ToC), as outlined in the RFA, to achieve the activity's goal.

This development food and nutrition security activity is part of the RISE II initiative and are expected to partner with, support, and leverage a significant portfolio of complementary USAID, and other donor, investments in the region. The activities should be designed to contribute to the RISE II results framework in a significant way. The importance of partnership, coordination, and learning between the FFP-funded activities and other USAID, GoBF, and development actors in Burkina Faso and regionally, cannot be overstated.

These activities are intended to be the core community-based activities within the RISE II portfolio. As such, they have a central role in implementing the RISE II operational principle of

⁵⁴ Ibid p. 29

⁵⁵ <https://www.usaid.gov/documents/1860/burkina-faso-vulnerability-map-feb-2015>

⁵⁶ SMART Survey, 2016

⁵⁷ Ibid

community-led development, with the goal of enhancing community leadership of local development. It is particularly important in the dynamic Sahelian context that communities can build their own capacity to learn and adapt. This development food and nutrition security activity should also play a key role in local governance, strengthening village and community development planning and implementation, management of common resources, and local support systems in times of shock. While it is not the intent for the development food and nutrition security activity to address directly violent extremism, it is considered relevant to violent extremism. Through local conflict management, reinforcing inclusive societal norms and practices, and engaging youth, the activity should reduce grievances and make communities more resilient to extremist messages and the violence they often promote.

It is critical that applicants place poor people at the center of their strategy and seek to help them develop the capacity, aspirations, and access to resources and services that will enable them to take ownership of their own development and pursue their chosen pathways out of poverty. FFP encourages applicants to propose innovative technical approaches that can help break the cycle of poverty and chronic food and nutrition insecurity. FFP expects applications to demonstrate robust strategies for strong coordination and collaboration that take advantage of other relevant development activities or humanitarian assistance in the target area to achieve the activity's goal.

IV. Programming Principles

IV (a) Targeting Approach

The RFA outlines the targeting strategy, which includes targeting extremely poor households, chronically vulnerable households, and households vulnerable to chronic malnutrition.

The ToC should identify different pathways to achieve the goal based on household poverty, vulnerability and capacities. Applications should propose different packages of interventions for people in different wealth quintiles, aiming to create sustainable access to adequate food at all times; improve nutrition, health and hygiene; and improve management of risks and shocks. For example, extremely poor households that are economically active but chronically unable to meet their basic needs without assistance would require a different set of interventions than households above the extreme poverty threshold.

Targeting for nutrition interventions may be expanded as needed to include people who are economically better off, but nonetheless vulnerable to malnutrition. Based on the applicant's

theory of change, health and nutrition interventions may target the community as a whole, or households with or without women/children in the first 1000 days.⁵⁸ Reflecting best practice, whole-of-community targeting for WASH interventions is recommended, but an added focus on the needs of the poorest to achieve WASH gains is also likely needed.

IV (b) Refine and Implement

FFP envisions that with R&I, the project design will be shaped to better reflect the operating environment during project inception and respond to changing or unanticipated situations on the ground once the project is implemented. Applicants should plan to identify and strengthen key areas of collaboration, identify crucial knowledge gaps, consult with communities, and adapt activities during the first year refinement period in collaboration with USAID. Applicants may propose interventions during the first year and/or may propose interventions that have the potential to be refined and scaled up for better implementation in out years. Successful applicants will be expected to collaborate with USAID on the following:

- **Learning and adaptation:** Develop a learning agenda based on the key knowledge gaps that remain during implementation start up. Adapt activity's theory of change, proposed interventions and Logframe based on the outcomes of various learning exercises including the results of the baseline study.
- **Collaboration:** Identify key stakeholders who are crucial for carrying out and achieving the activity's desired outcomes. Particularly during the first year, as other USAID or donor programs are identified and/or start, it is expected that the activity may need to be adjusted to better integrate with other programs contributing to the RISE II resilience objectives and learning agenda.
- **Targeting:** Demonstrate a rigorous approach to participant targeting that ensures inclusion of extremely poor households. Include a plan for assessing the needs, constraints, capabilities and opportunities faced by participants. Design an intervention strategy that is tailored to participants' circumstances.
- **Integrate, Sequence and Layer Interventions.** Produce a detailed and deliberate plan on how best to integrate multi-sectoral interventions at the household and community levels. Sequence and layer interventions to enable participants to maximize their learning intake to sustainably achieve food security outcomes.

⁵⁸ The 1,000 days from pregnancy to a child's second birthday is the most critical time for positive impact on a child's cognitive, intellectual, and physical development. Good nutrition in the first 1,000 days lays the foundation for health, development, and even prosperity for the next generation. Source: USAID Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy, 2014

IV (c) Inclusion of Gender and Youth

Recognizing that some hazards and barriers are gender-specific, and that others occur at different stages of the life cycle, consideration of context-specific constraints and opportunities faced by women and youth in Burkina Faso is strongly encouraged. Activities should support the enfranchisement, aspirations, and agency of women and youth. It is important to build on the wisdom and experience of women while also recognizing that women continue to face disproportionate economic, social, and health challenges. Low levels of literacy and numeracy serve as a barrier to strengthening women and girl's livelihood options. It is essential to understand what demographic and societal changes are underway and how to promote positive changes in how older and younger men and women relate—both for social stability and for attaining food security objectives. Given the prevalence of polygamous marriages, applicants should consider how the practice of polygamy affects the distribution of decision-making power and resources within polygamous households. Key interventions to consider are those aimed at addressing/preventing early marriage and/or early pregnancy and promotion of and referral for family planning and reproductive health services.

FFP promotes a focus on young people as positive change agents who bring creativity, energy, commitment and novel perspectives to addressing food insecurity in their communities⁵⁹⁶⁰. Approximately 65 percent of the population of Burkina Faso is under 24 years and face their own significant challenges. Youth play a significant role in the future of food and nutrition security in Burkina Faso. Where appropriate, applicants are encouraged to engage youth strategically, through youth-focused programming and the integration of youth throughout the proposed interventions. Many youth migrate as a key livelihood strategy, seeking employment and education opportunities elsewhere. Further, the seasonal presence/absence of a male head of household will affect female participation in household decision-making and women and girls' labor burden in reproductive, productive, and community roles. FFP considers understanding youth migration a top priority. Alternatives to informal gold mining, and mechanisms for maintaining strong connections with home communities, supportive of an ongoing sense of social belonging, should be explored. Applicants should consider activities that include youth, equipping them with productive and mobile livelihood options that may mitigate disenfranchisement, reduce vulnerability and contribute to a diversification of income.

⁵⁹ <https://www.usaid.gov/documents/1860/usaid-sahel-youth-analysis>

⁶⁰ USAID Youth in Development Policy

IV (d) Disaster Risk Management

The importance of resilience building, including preparing for, responding to and recovering from shocks —are central to moving populations out of poverty and food insecurity traps, and should be reflected in all proposed interventions. Applicants are encouraged to articulate how proposed programming will reduce vulnerability to shocks common to the target area and respond in the event of a shock. To address this, applications must contain a response strategy for dealing with predictable shocks relevant to the proposed target area(s) and livelihood group(s)⁶¹. The response strategy should be embedded in the proposed activity’s strategy, meaning it should align with and support development goals and preserve development gains made in intervening (non-shock) years.

Successful applicants will offer an appropriate package of technical assistance, and behavior change activities to help address vulnerabilities to shocks and stresses, as well as work on the systemic changes needed to enhance household capacities to cope and recover from shocks and stresses. Systemic transformational factors may include governance related issues such as improved service delivery and risk management. FFP also encourages applicants to pursue options that engage key United Nations agencies and others RISE II actors to ensure a robust framework for coordination in disaster risk management and response, and to strengthen linkages with national social protection programs, where applicable.

Environment degradation amplifies the effects of natural disasters and limits food insecure households’ ability to recover and rebuild their livelihoods. The increasingly dry and variable climate threatens ecosystems and livelihoods, while the need for productive land and increased yields increases. Applicants are encouraged to explore integrated approaches that can deal with a variety of complex environmental concerns, and at the same time, enable communities to identify, analyze, develop options for solutions and then implement those solutions within minimal or no outside support.

IV(e) Local Capacity Building

Successful activities will incorporate local capacity building and encourage mobilization of in-country resources, while gradually transitioning responsibility to local partners, when appropriate. Applicants should make effective use of local organizations and entities, such as, universities, civil-society organizations, local grantees or contractors as a means of promoting customized solutions sustainable beyond the program’s life cycle.

⁶¹ <https://www.climatelinks.org/resources/climate-risks-food-peace-geographies-burkina-faso>

IV (f) Resource Transfers

With justification, applicants can request funding for any combination of local or regional procurement, cash transfers, vouchers and/or Title II commodities. Applicants are encouraged to consider that resource transfer modalities are appropriate to enable vulnerable households to smooth consumption, facilitate availability of and access to nutritious foods that could lead to improved nutrition outcomes for mothers and children, and take advantage of opportunities leading to sustainable linkages to services, markets and employment. Resource transfer selection should be justified based on market appropriateness (including seasonality), feasibility, activity objective and cost efficiency, while adhering to do no harm principles.

V. Technical Approach

Applications should present a clear vision of how the interventions will work together to reach food, nutrition and resilience outcomes, not just outputs. Successful applicants will need to prioritize clearly a manageable number of interventions based on the needs assessment, the context and the applicant's internal considerations.

V (a) Addressing Extreme Poverty

This activity should be designed to sustainably increase household income and access to food at all times, reduce hunger, increase resilience, and improve nutritional security.

It is expected that the applicants will first identify the target groups and then develop a theory of change to achieve the goal. The ToC will recognize variable needs, assets and capacities of different wealth groups. It is important to note that the income pathways for people in different wealth groups are likely to be different. Extremely poor households, for example, may need support for consumption smoothing so that they do not divest and can develop productive livelihood assets for investments, while households who are above the extreme poverty threshold may not need support for consumption smoothing. Poor and extremely poor households often lack necessary information, skills and confidence to make optimal decisions on matters such as production, marketing, investments, financial services, optimal nutrition and hygiene behaviors, and life skills. Tailored counselling and social and behavioral change strategies designed for adult learners could increase capacity of poor and extremely poor households to overcome these barriers. Applicants may consider strategies to effectively design and implement counselling and/or social and behavior change.

The ToC will focus on building confidence; adaptive, absorptive and transformative capacities; accumulating assets; increasing the capabilities, and building agency of extremely poor, chronically vulnerable, and moderately poor individuals and households so they are confident to implement and sustain positive changes. The applicants should carefully analyze all systemic, structural and behavioral barriers to escaping poverty and the food insecurity trap. This approach should aim to enhance community assets while also building bonding, bridging and/or linking social capital.

V (b) Maternal Child Health and Nutrition

Applicants are encouraged to propose a comprehensive package of MCHN activities designed to improve the health status of Burkina Faso and break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition. Applicants should consider appropriate nutrition specific and sensitive interventions for the prevention of chronic and acute malnutrition, also known as wasting. The activity should also align with the GoBF National Nutrition Plan. Community health and nutrition systems strengthening should be considered as a base for all health and nutrition interventions, ensuring community health and nutrition inputs are linked to and synergistic with GoBF, RISE II, and other USAID and stakeholder investments at a community, district, or regional level. For example, USAID is planning a separate activity that will strengthen the quality of social behavior change, health, family planning and nutrition services at health facilities in similar geographic zones.

Health and nutrition interventions should be available at the household and community levels, and be designed to target all nutritionally vulnerable people, particularly women and children within the 1,000-day period. The MCHN component should place special emphasis on innovative and intensive social mobilization that aims to shift social and cultural norms to improve maternal, infant, and young child nutrition practices, and availability and access to high quality health and nutrition services. A behavior-centered approach may be needed to achieve this.

Approaches must consider adolescent health and nutrition, including community approaches aimed to address/prevent early marriage and/or early pregnancy and improve adolescent girls' nutritional status; and maternal health and nutrition (MCHN), including promotion of and referral for family planning and reproductive health services.

Other illustrative nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive considerations include:

- Social and behavior change that address relevant individual, community and key influencers/networks. Interventions should seek to: transform social dynamics that keep women and children in the vicious cycle of malnutrition, build social cohesion, include a focus on problem solving, and avoid didactic message delivery as the primary communication approach;
- Quality improvement of community based health and nutrition service delivery and its utilization;
- Support to national policies related to the management of acute malnutrition and/or evidence based and innovative community based models which address acute malnutrition
- Nutrition-sensitive agriculture/livelihoods, including approaches to improve dietary diversity for adolescent girls and women/children in the first 1000 days;
- Intentional nutrition sensitive linkages to the national safety net program, if applicable.

All health and nutrition approaches and activities, including social behavior change activities, should be designed to be influential for the entire intervention community. However, for extremely poor and/or food insecure households with women and children within the 1000 days period, applicants are encouraged to include specialized health and nutrition services that aim to address the determinants of malnutrition specific to very poor, food insecure households. Applicants are encouraged to consider creative behavior-centered approaches rather than typical FFP development interventions that include an MCHN food transfer for the 1000 days.

V (c) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Water. As reflected in the broader RISE II design framework, USAID aims to improve water security through water resource management (WRM), as well as sustainable domestic and productive water services. A significant space exists for innovative WRM interventions that link domestic and productive water uses (e.g. multiple use water systems (MUS); cross-subsidies between productive and domestic tariffs; watershed management; and community-driven watershed mapping). Investments in water infrastructure should be well thought out with respect to design, construction quality, water quality, and operations & maintenance (O&M). Water infrastructure planning should be done using available data and technical resources and personnel to determine the most appropriate technology solution for the context. Decisions as to rehabilitation or construction should be decided similarly. Open wells do not meet criteria for basic drinking water and therefore will not be funded by FFP. Support and engagement with the communities and the GoBF's nascent Public Private Partnership model ('l'affermage') for tariff structures and O&M of rural water points is needed, and represents a particular point of

integration with broader RISE II efforts.⁶² Given the level of need for WASH services in the Sahel, FFP is open to testing and evaluating new methods, approaches or technologies, given a clearly articulated plan for testing and evaluating the effectiveness of proposed interventions.

Sanitation. WASH strategies should also reflect the understanding that water alone will not improve health and nutrition. Applicants are strongly encouraged to learn from the challenges incurred by sanitation implementers in Burkina Faso and to build from successful approaches (e.g. achievement of open-defecation free (ODF) and development of sanitation marketing and private sector approaches). Significant space exists for innovative but viable solutions to improve sanitation access for vulnerable communities, and applicants are expected to engage and coordinate activities with RISE II.

Hygiene. Affecting health and nutrition indicators will require putting behavior change around Burkinabés' hygiene norms front and center. Deliberate efforts to weave hygiene messaging into other pertinent activities (e.g. linking agricultural asset transfers to hygiene messaging on animal feces and child health) and to push behavior change approaches beyond *communication* are encouraged.

Additional criteria. Reflecting the importance of WASH and Water Resource investments to meeting the broader objectives of reduced poverty, improved nutrition, and overall resilience, FFP strongly encourages applicants to invest an appropriate level of resources in WASH and WRM to meet the full scope and goals of the development food and nutrition security activities. Recognizing the relatively new emphasis placed on WASH within FFP's development portfolio, partners are encouraged to build in capacity building and ensure proper staffing and technical experience. Staffing capacity and necessary skill sets will be reviewed.

Objective and clearly articulated targeting strategies and coverage levels for WASH interventions are encouraged, as well as clear links to other WASH actors (e.g. local/commune-level government structures). Reflecting best practice, whole-of-total community targeting for WASH interventions is recommended, but additional focus paid on the needs of the poorest is likely needed.

V (d) Diversification and Strengthening of Livelihoods

Applicants are encouraged to propose a comprehensive set of interventions that facilitate the strengthening and diversification of livelihood opportunities as a means of smoothing household consumption and stabilizing incomes of vulnerable households in the target areas. Off-farm sources of income play a growing role in rural Burkina Faso livelihoods. Existing youth

⁶² GoBF, in concert with WB, EU, JICA, is developing policies for water management, pricing and maintenance, based on the PPP ('l'affermage') models of Senegal and Niger.

unemployment and migration patterns, together with increasing opportunities linked to better market integration and value chain development warrant significant consideration in any strategy looking at livelihood diversification. Low levels of literacy and numeracy and access to financial services limit the opportunities to diversify livelihoods and engage in the larger economy.

Interventions should be strategic, properly targeted and sustainable. Targeting should include poor and vulnerable households and communities and should be inclusive of those who may not have land suitable for agriculture. It is important to ensure that livelihood investments help vulnerable populations manage current climatic variability while assisting them prepare for more severe climate changes in the future.

The specific context of, and prior experience, in Burkina Faso should underlie the entire food security strategy. Illustrative factors specific to Burkina Faso include, but are not limited to:

- Variable rainfall and poor water holding capacity of soils;
- Heavy reliance on markets for purchasing food;
- Limited off-farm and non-agricultural livelihood options;
- Poor soil fertility and seed systems leading to stagnant yields and cultivation on marginal and degraded areas;
- High post-harvest storage losses;
- Epicenter of self-financing and self-transferring model of Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration;⁶³
- Lack of land for agriculture and land tenure issues;
- Inadequate control of livestock pests and diseases;
- High population growth rate;
- Limited decision making by women;
- Poor dietary diversity.

VI. Management Approach

VI (a) Collaboration and Coordination

This FFP activity is an integral component of the overarching RISE II program. The underlying assumption for RISE II is that by deliberately layering, sequencing, and integrating efforts, the collective impact will result in greater and more sustainable results than any single activity could

⁶³ <http://ebrary.ifpri.org/utils/getfile/collection/p15738coll2/id/130817/filename/131028.pdf>

do in isolation. FFP and all other USAID activities in the RISE II zone will be required to contribute to the joint results framework, transformative outcomes and operational principles.

To facilitate the collaborative process, FFP activities will be required to do the following:

- Proactively seek opportunities for joint programming that amplifies results
- Describe joint efforts in annual work plans that clarify roles and responsibilities around specific programmatic linkages with other RISE II activities.
- Conduct joint site visits with other RISE II partners, when appropriate, to facilitate learning across activities.
- Actively participate in USAID partner meetings and learning events.
- Contribute to joint indicators linked to the RISE II results framework, analysis, and the diffusion of reliable information in collaboration with other RISE II activities, the GoBF's reporting system, and other donors.

VI (b) Adaptive Management and Learning

The activity will have a robust learning and evidence-based adaptive management strategy. Activity success will require good coordination with other institutional actors and purposeful layering of activities and services because the poor face multiple deprivations. No single agency has the expertise or the means to address comprehensively every social problem that will arise in this genre of programming. Inter-agency coordination will be a key to success. Applicants are encouraged to actively engage with and share learning with communities.

VI (c) Key Personnel

In addition to the Key Personnel identified in the RFA, the activity has the following additional key personnel:

Food Security Technical Coordinator: The technical coordinator will be charged with ensuring that all of the technical sectors work together to create multiplier effects across and between sectors. The technical coordinator will also ensure that overall technical implementation quality remains consistent and of high quality among all of the sub-awardees and implementation locations in the award. The technical coordinator will report directly to the COP or DCOP and be highly experienced in a broad spectrum of food security technical focus areas with responsibility for establishing and managing systems to ensure cohesion across all technical sectors in the application. The technical coordinator should also ensure technical interventions are integrated, layered and sequenced appropriately at all levels of implementation within the FFP activity, and USAID and RISE 2 investments. The technical coordinator should have demonstrated experience

developing - and ensuring quality control for - technically rigorous, food security integration and collaboration. The technical coordinator will work closely with the Monitoring and Evaluation Lead and the Strategic Learning Lead to ensure that M&E and learning feedback loops are being properly fed into and utilized by the technical field staff. An advanced degree (PhD or Master's) plus a minimum of five years relevant experience, or a Bachelor's degree and a minimum of seven years of relevant experience is required.

Strategic Learning Lead: The strategic learning lead will work closely with the Technical Coordinator and Monitoring and Evaluation Lead to ensure collaboration and learning across all projects in the applicants selected implementation area. This staff will ensure the activity includes active, intentional and adaptive learning within and across its multi-sectoral activities. This includes but is not limited to USG, host country government, international donors, multilateral organizations and private sector investments. Additionally, the strategic learning lead will improve peer-to-peer learning, knowledge sharing and application, activity-based capacity strengthening, evidence and data utilization, and collaborating, learning and adapting (CLA). An advanced degree (PhD or Master's) plus a minimum of three years relevant work experience or a Bachelor's degree and a minimum of five years relevant experience required.

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ANNEX 1



DRAFT RISE II RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Goal: Chronically vulnerable populations in Burkina Faso and Niger, supported by resilient systems, effectively manage shocks and stresses and pursue sustainable pathways out of poverty.

<p>O1 Enhance social & ecological risk management systems</p>	<p>O2 Increase and sustain economic well-being</p>	<p>O3 Improve health, family planning, & nutrition outcomes</p>	<p>O4 Enhance governance of institutions & organizations*</p>
<p>IR1.1 Improved water security 1.1.1 Enhanced watersheds and water resources management 1.1.2 Improved water management for productive uses 1.1.3 Enhanced management of safe drinking water</p>	<p>IR2.1 Improved agricultural and pastoral livelihoods 2.1.1 Greater agricultural and livestock productivity 2.1.2 Improved access to inputs & services 2.1.3 Improved post-harvest practices 2.1.4 Increased employment in value chains & supportive markets</p>	<p>IR3.1 Strengthened health systems 3.1.1 Improved leadership, management and human resources 3.1.2 Improved supply chain management 3.1.3 Stronger health information systems 3.1.4 Enhanced policy, financing and governance</p>	<p>IR4.1 Improved performance of sub-national state institutions (village, commune, province, region) 4.1.1 Improved resource mobilization and coordination 4.1.2 Enhanced capability 4.1.3 Greater transparency and accountability 4.1.4 Enhanced women's and youth leadership</p>
<p>IR1.2 Enhanced sustainable productive land use 1.2.1 More equitable, secure access to land 1.2.2 Improved management of natural resource conflicts 1.2.3 Enhanced climate smart agricultural practices 1.2.4 Improved pasture management and restored land</p>	<p>IR2.2 Diversified economic opportunities 2.2.1 Enhanced asset ownership for women and youth 2.2.2 Improved personal business networks 2.2.3 Migration benefits local communities</p>	<p>IR3.2 Increased supply of quality health, family planning, and nutrition services 3.2.1 Greater access to quality services, including for youth 3.2.2 Strengthened linkages between community and facility platforms</p>	<p>IR4.2 Strengthened local civil society and community-based organizations 4.2.1 More inclusive civic participation in local government structures 4.2.2 Enhanced capability 4.2.3 Greater transparency and accountability 4.2.4 Enhanced women's and youth leadership</p>
<p>IR1.3 Improved management of shocks, risks, and stresses* 1.3.1 Enhanced preparedness 1.3.2 Improved early response 1.3.3 Strengthened recovery capacity 1.3.4 Enhanced social capital 1.3.5 More responsive relationships between local and national levels</p>	<p>IR2.3 More inclusive and resilient market systems 2.3.1 Enhanced business enabling environment 2.3.2 Improved access to market information 2.3.3 Improved infrastructure 2.3.4 Enhanced market organization 2.3.5 Increased capacity of producer organizations and businesses</p>	<p>IR3.3 Improved health, family planning, hygiene, and nutritional practices 3.3.1 Reduced barriers to adoption of priority behaviors 3.3.2 Improved capacity to implement social and behavior change programs</p>	<p>IR4.3 Improved functioning of national resilience institutions 4.3.1 Strengthened national resilience policies 4.3.2 Improved coordination and implementation 4.3.3 Strengthened monitoring, evaluation and learning systems</p>
	<p>IR2.4 Increased utilization of financial services 2.4.1 Enhanced informal financial services 2.4.2 Enhanced formal financial services 2.4.3 Improved access to quality insurance 2.4.4 Increased investment and value chain financing</p>	<p>IR3.4 Increased access to affordable, nutritious, safe foods 3.4.1 Enhanced local production of nutritious, safe food 3.4.2 Increased market availability of nutritious, safe food 3.4.3 Enhanced purchasing power 3.4.4 Improved food access through safety nets</p>	<p>IR4.4 Improved capability of regional institutions (USAID/West Africa)</p>
<p>O5 Enhance social, economic and political agency of women and youth*</p>			

* IR1.3, O4, and O5 are crosscutting as well as stand-alone

RISE II Transformative outcomes and operational principles

USAID’s Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced II (RISE II) results framework indicates the results required to achieve the project goal of **Chronically vulnerable populations in Burkina Faso and Niger, supported by resilient systems, effectively manage shocks and stresses and pursue sustainable pathways out of poverty**. As identified in the results framework, all RISE II implementing partners will be expected to address cross-cutting issues of gender and youth, risk management, and governance. In addition, all RISE II activities must work toward the following transformative outcomes and apply the following operational principles:

Transformative development outcomes

- **Enhanced community leadership of local development**
- **Enhanced social capital through strengthened ties of mutual assistance among people**
- **Enhanced capacity to learn and adapt among beneficiaries, local partners, and partner governments**

Operational Principles

- **Community-led development** – Through dialogue, support communities to develop and implement priority actions that address core challenges and opportunities
- **Systems strengthening** - Analyze and seek to strengthen formal and informal systems that build resilience and improve well-being
- **Inclusive targeting** - Support the poorest households by responding to their specific needs, enhancing their aspirations, and strengthening their ability to access resources and services to pursue pathways out of poverty
- **Collaboration for collective impact** - Seek active collaboration among RISE II implementers, host country governments, community leaders, the private sector, civil society, USG agencies and partners, international agencies, and donors to collectively benefit chronically vulnerable populations