Emergency plan

**February 2019**

# Humanitarian needs

## Consequence of insecurity

**DISPLACED POPULATION AND HOST COMMUNITIES**

Growing insecurity affects nearly 621,824 people, and for the first time in history, Burkina Faso is facing internal displacement, with more than 83,000 people fleeing their homes. During 2018, 193 security incidents were recorded. More than 180 people were killed and 146 injured as a result of these security incidents. In January 2019, more than 1,000 schools were closed, affecting 150,000 students, and 120,000 people were affected by the closure of 4 health facilities and 17 operating in minimum service.

According to projections based on security trends, a total of 191,028 people will be internally displaced in 2019 in the Sahel band. This situation of insecurity is marked by an overlapping of chronic and acute vulnerabilities, sustained poverty and limited access to basic social services, resulting in the deprivation of the rights of these populations and significant needs in terms of protection, health, education, water, hygiene and sanitation.

**REFUGEES**

As of 31 November 2018, there were 25,107 refugees and asylum-seekers in Burkina Faso. Of the 24,686 Malian refugees, 24,166 have settled in the Sahel region, specifically in two camps and in host communities in Soum and Oudalan provinces. A socio-economic study conducted by UNHCR in 2016 shows that more than 93% of refugees depend entirely on humanitarian aid for their survival.

## Food security

The analysis of the November 2018 Harmonized Framework estimates that, from June to August 2019, 676,252 people will face food insecurity (phases 3 and 4), including 24,283 people in crisis (phase 4). In addition, 3,840,406 people will be under pressure (phase 2).

The population in need of food assistance is concentrated in the Sahel, North Central and Northern regions, particularly in areas affected by insecurity.

## Nutrition

587,439 people will be in need of nutritional assistance in 2019, including 133,066 severe acute malnourished children (SAM) under 5 years of age, 332,713 moderate acute malnourished children (MAM) and 121,660 pregnant and lactating women at risk of malnutrition.

According to the provisional results of the August 2018 national nutrition survey, insecure areas will be particularly affected with prevalence of severe acute malnutrition above the critical emergency threshold of 2%.

## Emergency preparedness

In 2019, about 40,950 people may need emergency humanitarian assistance due to the impact of natural disasters or epidemics.

**NATURAL DISASTERS**Burkina Faso is regularly affected by various natural disasters that make already fragile populations even more vulnerable. The INFORM Risk Index, which analyses vulnerability and the level of capacity to cope with shocks, identifies the Sahel region (5.9) as a high-risk region. For 2019, it is estimated that 34,000 people may need assistance following floods and high winds.

**EPIDEMIA**The epidemiological situation has been marked by the emergence of dengue fever outbreaks since 2013. 89% of the cases affected 7 of the country's 13 regions. Annual measles outbreaks also remain a concern. In 2019, 7,136 people could be affected by epidemics. Each year, a response plan is developed by the Government and is highly dependent on a contribution from humanitarian partners.

# Response strategy

## PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

A significant increase in humanitarian needs is expected during 2019. The dynamics of increased activity by armed groups with an expansion of areas of control and the diversity of methods of attacks against security and defence forces support a continued deterioration of the security environment. The stigmatization of some communities, threats against teachers and health workers could fuel tensions by feeding on people's mistrust and resentment. Attacks on humanitarian workers could increase in the Sahel region, as well as against civilians along the transhumance corridors where their protection is threatened.

Further waves of displacement are expected, with a worsening humanitarian situation in the Sahel band. Access to vulnerable communities - who are already facing a difficult food and nutrition situation - especially women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities would then be further limited by insecurity.

## FOCUS ON THE PROTECTION OF THE VULNERABLE CIVILIAN POPULATION

Protecting the vulnerable civilian population and saving and preserving the lives of affected populations are the priorities of this plan. They must guide interventions from planning to implementation and response monitoring. The objective of the plan is to provide rapid and coordinated targeted assistance to the most vulnerable people in emergency situations, adapted to their needs, in accordance with norms and standards and in accordance with humanitarian principles.

To ensure the protection of civilians, humanitarian access must be ensured through negotiation, mediation and dialogue. The security crisis in the Sahel, East, North and Boucle du Mouhoun regions presents multiple factors, including the action of armed groups and the inter-community divide. Intervening in this context therefore requires engagement with all actors not only for ethical reasons, ensuring respect for the principles of neutrality and impartiality, but also for reasons of operational efficiency, particularly with regard to protection and humanitarian access.

By ensuring a conflict-sensitive approach and respect for humanitarian principles, actors involved in the humanitarian response will respond to the immediate needs of the affected population and work to reduce inter-community tensions and violence.

## A COORDINATED RESPONSE

The national authorities are trying to improve the security situation in the Sahel band (Boucle du Mouhoun, North, Sahel and East) by combining their efforts with those of the military operations of the G5 Sahel Joint Force. In addition to security interventions, the Government of Burkina Faso, through the Conseil National de Secours d'Urgence et de Réhabilitation (CONA ONASUR) and the relevant technical ministries, coordinates the humanitarian response in collaboration with all actors in the country.

Humanitarian actors, according to their capacities and geographical coverage, operate in the most affected areas to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable population, ensuring access to basic social services including protection, food assistance, MAMAS care, health, education and water, hygiene and sanitation.

## THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE MULTISECTORAL APPROACH

The multisectoral dimension, already underway in Burkina Faso, will be strengthened in order to promote assistance that is increasingly adapted to the holistic needs of the targeted vulnerable people. The conduct of inter-sectoral and multi-stakeholder assessment and monitoring missions to affected areas will continue to be a key tool to ensure a common understanding of the situation and the identification of priorities and responsibilities of the different actors. The consolidation of a rapid response mechanism in the Sahel region, which will play an important role in emergency response, will also be a priority, with the objective of maintaining a humanitarian monitoring, multi-sectoral assessment and rapid response capacity to identified urgent needs. With regard to information management, emphasis will also be placed on improving and systematizing the collection and management of information.

Thus, the cash transfer modality will be used, as often as possible, as a response modality to enable beneficiaries to access the basic needs adapted to them and reduce their vulnerability.

## HUMANITARIAN ACCESS AND CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION

Limiting humanitarian access is the main operational constraint of the humanitarian community in the Sahel, North and East regions. The capacity of the actors

Humanitarian BCR/OCHA.to reach affected and needy communities is constrained by multiple factors including community fracture insecurity, activity of armed groups, crime, physical obstacles (damaged roads, lack of bridges) and administrative constraints (movement restrictions).

Since 20181 there has been a significant increase in security incidents. This trend shows a doubling of security incidents compared to the last three years. Analysis of these incidents indicates that they are the result of acts by non-State armed groups and the defence and security forces (DSF), banditry and intercommunal violence. In addition to these access constraints, there are movement restrictions introduced by the Government and the lack and state of infrastructure, which are also factors hindering access and the provision of assistance to the population. The lack of contextual knowledge by some humanitarian actors and the often very restrictive internal security measures are also access constraints.

Burkina Faso is developing a humanitarian access strategy with the objective of ensuring and facilitating access to protection and assistance for vulnerable people. This objective reminds us that people's rights are at the heart of this strategy. Facilitating humanitarian operations is one way to ensure that the rights of affected people are better respected. The access strategy aims to create a consensual approach within which humanitarian and development actors can operate. This will be a two-way humanitarian access (1) The affected population has safe, dignified and equitable access to assistance and protection, and (2) Humanitarian and development actors have safe access to vulnerable people.

To help preserve humanitarian space, ensure appropriate relations between the various actors by focusing particularly on issues of humanitarian access, area security, the principle of distinction between civilians and the military and the protection of civilians, Burkina Faso is in the process of setting up a Civil-Military Coordination mechanism. This mechanism is part of a strategic reflection on how to facilitate humanitarian action in accordance with humanitarian principles, through dialogue between civilian and military actors. The Civil-Military Coordination Cell is a coordination platform, bringing together the various armed and police forces and civilian actors concerned, to enable the continuation of humanitarian activities and access to basic social services, mainly in the Sahel Region as well as in other areas of the country where humanitarian assistance is required.

## FOCUS ON EDUCATION

The 2018-2019 school year was marked by school fires and equipment fires, and threats to education staff and leaders of parent-teacher associations. This situation has led to the closure of 7,792 schools, depriving some 96,000 children (including 46,560 girls) of the right to attend school. Considering the security situation described, approximately 255,3073 out-of-school/non-school boys and girls (3 to 17 years old) affected by the crisis will need support in the education sector.

The implementation of an emergency education strategy will involve refugee, displaced, returnee, host population and other children of school age (3 to 17 years) who have no or no access to education due to the crisis.

Efforts will help to keep 374,839 children in school in affected areas and schools, including the provision of educational materials, teacher training on psychosocial care and school safety/resilience.

## PROGRAMMATIC FRAMEWORK AND THE NEW WAY OF WORKING

Since 2017, Burkina Faso, one of the Sahelian countries seeking to implement the "New Way of Working" agenda, has been gradually integrating humanitarian needs into development plans for a gradual reduction in humanitarian needs while focusing on crisis prevention. In this context, three collective outcomes have already been defined in the 2018-2020 cooperation framework and will be used to monitor and measure the progress of interventions in favour of the population. This is the:

**Collective Outcome 1**: By 2020, reduce by 50% the general population's perception of risk and conflict.

**Collective outcome 2:** By 2020, contribute to the reduction by 50% of the number of people in phase 3 of food insecurity - CPI 3 - and the eradication of phases 4 and 5 of food insecurity as well as the reduction by 30% of malnutrition among children under five years of age.

**Collective result 3:** By 2020, contribute to reducing the number of households vulnerable to climate shocks to less than 1%.