

Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

Burkina Faso

October 2009

Key Messages

- Food security situation remains difficult due to persistent high food prices and irregular rains at the beginning of the season resulting in 6% decline in cereal production.
- The floods significantly affected the livelihoods of the already vulnerable consumers in the capital city, while the delay in the start of the rainy season resulted in reduced harvests.
- FEWSNET argues that food security conditions have improved in the short term, while WFP and IFPRI do not agree on the long term hunger condition.
- The government implemented different measures in support of producers and consumers, including initiatives to stabilize prices.

Background

In 2008 the total population in Burkina Faso was 15.20 million with an annual growth rate of 2%. Although rural population is about 81%, the contribution of agriculture to the GDP is around 33%. The proportion of undernourished population in 2005 was 10%.

Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population - 2008 (WB)	15208586
Population growth rate - 2008 (WB)	2%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP - 2008 (WB)	1160
Population below 1\$ PPP per day - 2003 (MDGI)	56%
Rural population - 2007 (WB)	81%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2006 (WB)	33%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2005 (FAO)	10%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption - 2005 (FAO)	73%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption - 2005 (FAO)	3%

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2006 (WHO)	13%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2006 (WHO)	47
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2006 (WHO)	72%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years - 2005 (WHO)	2%

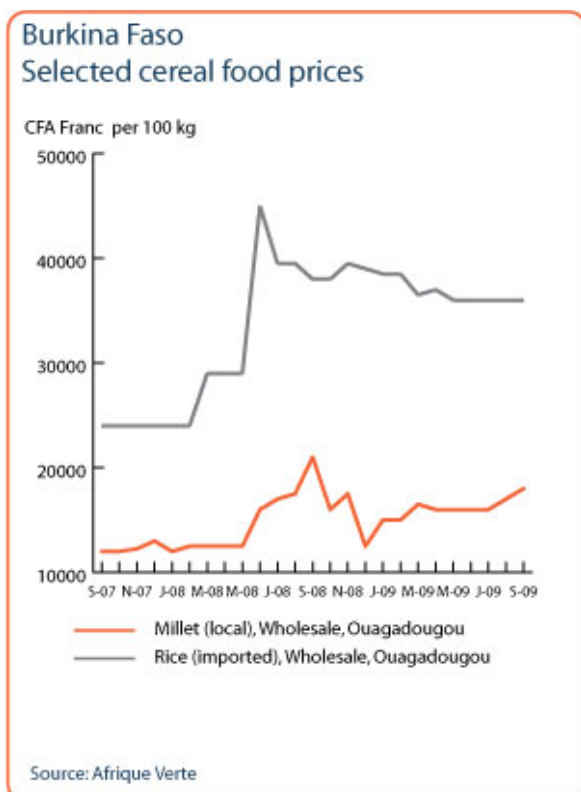
Prices

Cereals: Cereal prices have shown signs of stabilising in the past few months, but they still remain high. Despite a sharp decline in prices from the peak of August-September 2008, wholesale millet prices on the Ouagadougou markets in July 2009 are still 33% higher than in July 2007; imported rice prices are 50% higher than two years ago. It is likely that food prices will increase due to the loss of food stocks by the households affected by flooding, who will need emergency aid.

Livestock: Terms of trade are improving for pastoralists because livestock prices are increasing thanks to the significant upcoming holiday demand between now and December.

Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

In September severe flooding in Ouagadougou displaced some 100,000 people. Some 25,000 homes were destroyed and 300 hectares of crops (including vegetable gardens and rice fields) were damaged. These families have lost their houses and their only sources of income and require urgent assistance.



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Refugees and IDPs	2006	2007	2008
Total in the country	1267	1133	1161
Total outside the country	579	822	1042

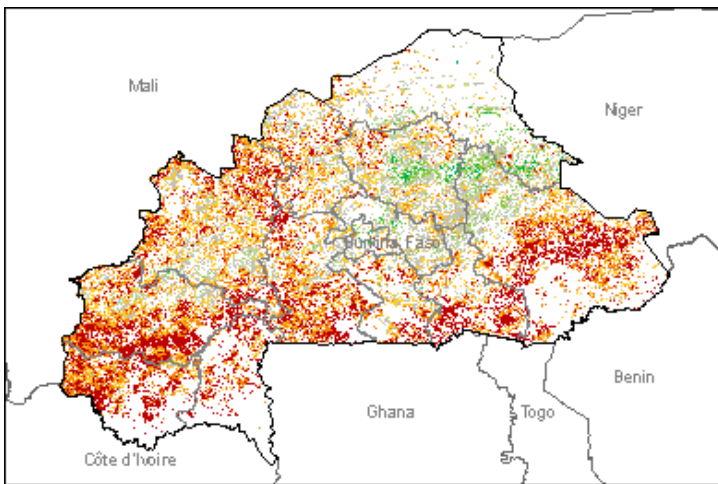
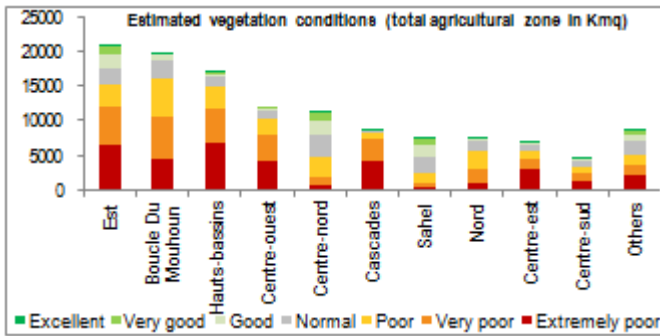
Source: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 22/10/2009.

Disaster Type (last year)	Date	Location	Alert
No Floods	-	-	-
No Earthquakes	-	-	-

Source: Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System - 3 = 1000 or more people killed or 800000 or more people displaced. 2 = 100 or more people killed or 80000 or more displaced.

Vegetation Condition

Estimated vegetation condition in October 2009 with respect to the average of the last 10 years. The vegetation condition is calculated on the agricultural zone defined according to the GLOBCOVER land cover database. The charts report the areas of each vegetation condition class by province and have to be cautiously interpreted, in particular if in the dry season.



Source: JRC MARS – FoodSec

Food Security Situation

According to FEWSNET, the short term food security situation in rural areas has improved between September and October. WFP agrees that hunger would be moderately low in the long term, while IFPRI argues that, in the long term, the hunger index would be alarming.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT

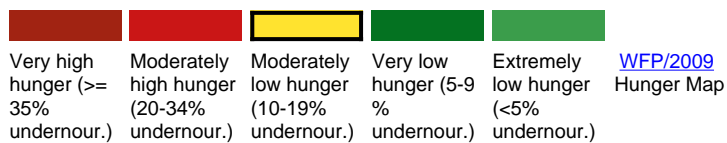
Burkina Faso is not part of the countries in crisis requiring external assistance

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The provisional 2009/2010 cereal balance sheet indicates an estimated gross surplus of about 309,689 tons and a net surplus of 566,636 tons. A decline in gross domestic production by about five per cent compared to ...[more](#)

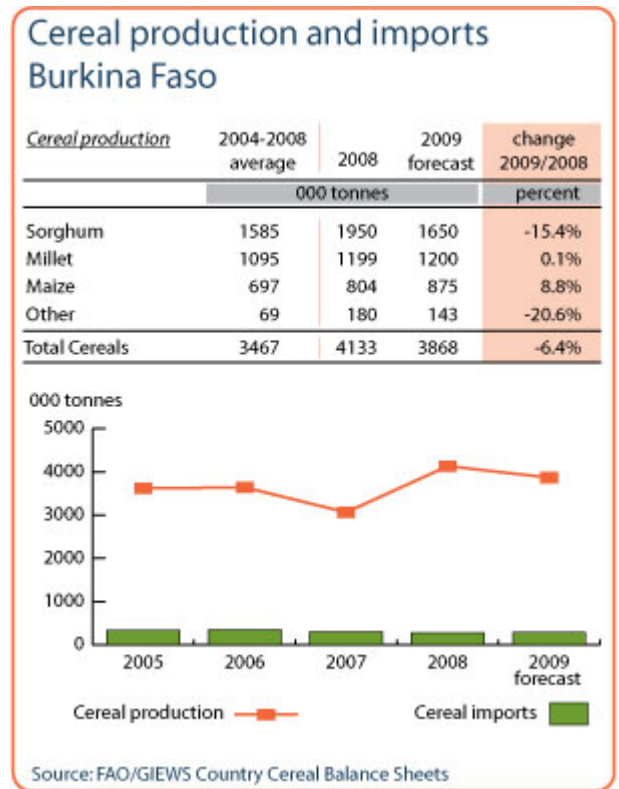
[FEWSNET](#)

SCALE OF HUNGER



Food Balance Sheet

Total cereal production is estimated to be 3.8 million tonnes for 2009 with imports amounting at 294,000 tonnes. Because of an overall delay of the rainy season a 6% decline in cereal production has been registered from 2008 levels when it reached more than 4 million tonnes.



Source: [GIEWS Country Briefs](#)

Governance Policies

The government has provided input for crop production and in 2008 it suspended VAT and tariffs to reduce the impact of high prices on consumers. Moreover, in response to the floods it has designated 15,000 plots of land where displaced families are to relocate, and will give cash and materials to help people rent or build homes.

Consumer and market oriented measures	Storage facilities; Suspended VAT;
Producer oriented measures	Support to inputs for crop production; Irrigation; Market information;
Trade policy measures	Reduced tariffs on imports; Fertilizers and seeds programmes;
Safety net (increased or introduced)	Food/cash transfers; Input distribution

Market and trade policy measures adopted (as of 1 December 2008)

Current events to watch (Click to see the full report)

[BURKINA FASO: Coping with urban flood-displaced](#)

For more information, contact: Information-for-action@fao.org
Website: www.foodsec.org

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