

**ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE HUMANITARIAN/RESIDENT COORDINATOR
ON THE USE OF CERF GRANTS**

Country	Burkina Faso
Humanitarian / Resident Coordinator	Babacar Cisse
Reporting Period	01 January – 31 December 2008

I. Executive Summary

The following Annual Report of the Resident Coordinator on the use of CERF grants covers two types of CERF grants that the Humanitarian Country Team in Burkina Faso benefited from in 2008. The first CERF grant was related to the Underfunded emergencies window while the second one focused on the rapid response to the impact of the Global Food Crisis on the most vulnerable population in main cities.

Burkina Faso is a poor country with population exposed to recurrent food insecurity and undernutrition. Vulnerable groups such as children under the age of five and pregnant and lactating women have faced, for many years, a nutritional crisis coupled with a deficiency of micro nutriment. The Government of Burkina Faso recognizes the precarious nutrition status of children and women in food insecure areas of the country. To face this worrying situation, the Ministry of Health has developed and adopted a National Nutrition Policy and a national protocol for management of malnutrition in 2007. A unit for nutrition issues management was also created within the same Ministry (Direction de la Nutrition/MS). In addition, a national council for nutrition was created to coordinate, federate and develop synergies for nutrition interventions. However capacities and resources have not been sufficient to implement integrated multi-sectoral approaches including both curative and preventive high impact nutrition interventions program coordination and monitoring and evaluation.

Regarding the agriculture sector, the 2007/2008 crop season was characterized by a chaotic pluviometry that jeopardized the production in at least 15 provinces of Burkina Faso. Despite the recurrence of climatic hazards and consequences in terms of food insecurity, the implementation of a relevant response to this structural situation is impeded by the lack of funding at the national level. Thus, UN agencies, namely UNICEF, WFP and FAO, received allocations through the underfunded emergencies window of the CERF for a total US\$ 3.4 million to ensure the continuity of nutritional and agricultural response activities initiated in 2006 and 2007 in seven administrative regions.

UNICEF, WFP and FAO have received funding from CERF to implement three projects through the underfunded window, namely:

- 08-CEF-068 “Life-saving nutrition response to food price crisis” (UNICEF),
- 08-WFP-019 “Reversing growing under nutrition in food insecure regions” (WFP), and
- 08-FAO-003 “Emergency agricultural assistance to vulnerable populations affected by climatic risks and food insecurity” (FAO).

Burkina Faso has been affected by the impact of the food price crisis that triggered violent demonstrations in the country's main cities in February 2008. Thanks to a rapid response request submitted to CERF, the UNCT mobilized \$ 2 million for the rapid implementation of emergency activities aiming at mitigating the impact of food crisis, especially among the most vulnerable groups of the urban and peri-urban populations in main cities. This response included activities such as provision of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) to Government and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, distribution of nutrition food to children, information campaigns for the promotion of taking care of babies, and a support to food production activities and income generation of farm households in urban and peri-urban areas.

UNICEF, WFP and FAO projects funded through the CERF rapid response window in 2008 are:

- 08-CEF-013 "Emergency Nutrition for Child Survival in Burkina Faso",
- 08-WFP-093 "Emergency Response to High Food Prices in Burkina Faso main cities", and
- 08-FAO-048 "Emergency Assistance to Farming Families, victims of high food prices in Urban and Peri-Urban Areas in Five cities in Burkina Faso".

For CERF funding received, children under five years, pregnant and lactating women exposed to undernutrition and vulnerable farm households in rural, urban and peri-urban areas prone to food insecurity were targeted. Specifically, response activities eventually carried out benefited 106,015 children and 45,577 pregnant and lactating women throughout the country.

Total amount of humanitarian funding required and received during the reporting year	REQUIRED: RECEIVED:	\$ 52,025,932.00 \$ 5,400,292.23		
Total amount requested from CERF	FUNDS (IN TOTAL REQUESTED):	\$		
Total amount of CERF funding received by funding window	RAPID RESPONSE: UNDERFUNDED: GRAND TOTAL:	\$ 2,000,293.23 \$ 3,399,999 \$ 5,400,292.23		
Total amount of CERF funding for direct UN agency / IOM implementation and total amount forwarded to implementing partners	UN AGENCIES/IOM: NGOS: GOVERNMENT: OTHER: TOTAL	\$ 5,315,292.23 \$ 85,000 \$ 5,400,292.23		
Approximate total number of beneficiaries reached with CERF funding	TOTAL	under 5 years of age	Female (If available)	Male (If available)
	171,911	106,015	45,577	20,319
Geographic areas of implementation targeted with CERF funding	RR: Ouagadougou , Bobo Dioulasso, Ouahigouya, Koudougou and Banfora UFE: Sahel, Est, Centre, Centre- East, Centre -South, Centre West, Centre -North, North, 'Haut Basins', 'Cascades', South-West			

II. Background

Burkina Faso is a poor, landlocked, sub-Saharan country of 14 million inhabitants with limited natural resources and rainfall and high vulnerability to natural disasters and regional instability. Burkina Faso has nonetheless achieved real gross domestic product (GDP) growth rates of over 5 percent per year since 1994, and has shown resilience to recent exogenous shocks with growth rates of 4 percent in both 2007 and 2008. In 2007 real income per capita was \$ 430, an increase of over 50 percent since 1994, but still below \$ 578 for low income countries and \$ 952 for Sub-Saharan Africa. Poverty incidence decreased from 55 percent in 1998 to about 43 percent in 2007.

Positive trends in social welfare have accelerated, with infant mortality rates falling from 107 per 1,000 live births in 1995 to 96 in 2005. The gross primary school enrolment rate has also risen quickly, from 57 percent in 2005 to 72.5 in 2007. However, other social indicators rank at or below the averages for Sub-Saharan Africa: in 2005, the youth literacy rate was 33 percent compared to 70 percent for Sub-Saharan Africa. Burkina Faso was ranked 176th out of 177 countries in the 2007 Human Development Index (HDI), published by the United Nations Development Program.

The prevalence of undernutrition which is mixed with an aggravated deficiency of micronutrients in Burkina Faso has worsened during the past decade reaching precarious levels. The findings of the latest Demographic and Health Survey (DHS 2003) and joint nutrition surveys and studies involving Government, UN agencies and NGOs emphasize the seriousness of the situation for children and pregnant and lactating women. For example, 90 percent of children under-five are affected by anaemia.

Acute undernutrition (wasting) has increased from 13 percent to 18.6 percent (more than 450,000 children) over the past ten years indicating an alarming situation well above WHO's highest threshold. The prevalence of stunting and underweight increased during the same period, from respectively 31 percent and 30 percent to 39 percent and 38 percent. The crude mortality rate is 1.27/10000/day among children under-two in the Sahel and East Regions of Burkina Faso. The percentage of underweight women of childbearing age increased from 15 percent to 21 percent. Furthermore, almost 70 percent of pregnant women suffer from anaemia and 13 percent are affected by vitamin A deficiency. Therefore the nutritional status of the Burkina Faso population, especially children and pregnant and lactating women, has lagged behind and acute malnutrition remains structurally alarming hereby justifying CERF support for underfunded emergencies.

The humanitarian situation in Burkina Faso is also characterized by recurrent food insecurity. Northern and eastern regions have been prone to structural food insecurity for many years. In the meantime, many other regions are in a fragile food security situation that can be affected by shocks and hazards. The 2007/2008 crop season was characterized by a chaotic pluviometry that jeopardized the production in at least 15 provinces of Burkina Faso. The massive quantity of rain over a short period of time caused major damages in 12 out of the country's 13 regions affecting more than 90,000 people. This was followed by an abrupt end of the rainy season. The heavy rains and their sudden end resulted in national cereal production being 16 percent lower than expected thus creating important pressure on the market. The price of staple cereal commodities increased up to 80 percent as compared with the previous year.

To respond to the structural undernutrition and food insecurity situation in a context of limited resources, UN agencies (WFP, FAO and UNICEF) submitted in March 2008 proposals to the underfunded emergencies window of the CERF to provide:

- Supplementary feeding rations for the rehabilitation of moderately undernourished children under three;
- Nutritionally balanced food rations to pregnant women and lactating mothers with the objective to reduce the number of low-birth-weight and promoting exclusive breast feeding during the first six months after birth;
- Direct support to the farmers (seeds, fertilizer, trainings).

Resources from the CERF underfunded emergencies window were made available to address this worrying situation.

The global food and energy crisis occurred in this already fragile humanitarian context in Burkina Faso, while the national humanitarian community was responding to the structural situation with limited resources.

As a consequence of the combination of climatic, geographic and economic factors, Burkina Faso is importing a significant part of the food consumed especially in the major cities. Since the beginning of 2008, the country is indeed confronted with an unprecedented rise of imported staples prices

(such as rice, oil and sugar). Reports and analysis reveal that prices of imported basic products (maize, sorghum, rice, powder milk and oil) increased from 11 to 44 percent from October 2007 to July 2008, affecting the living conditions of the poorest and most vulnerable segments of the urban and peri urban population. In addition, soaring food prices for imported commodities and fuel slowed down some informal sector activities thus reducing the employment opportunities of the poorest households.

Because of its macro-level vulnerability and its weak capacity to handle world price shocks, Burkina Faso has been deeply affected by the increasing global prices causing, for example, civil unrests and riots in February 2008 in the five major cities of the country. The Government reacted by introducing some measures, such as the suspension of import duties on staple foods, the temporary reduction of VAT and an unofficial ban of exporting large scale consumed food products. However these measures did not have the expected mitigation impact and the situation remained alarming. In that context, purchasing power of the most vulnerable populations has been seriously decreased, hereby impacting their food consumption and deteriorating their health and nutrition status. A rapid "High Food Prices Impact" assessment mission, conducted jointly by the GoBF, UNCT and SCF-UK in late July 2008, concluded that these households are highly exposed to the risk of falling into a state of complete destitution as they rely on a shrinking, limited income while the market is their only source to access food. They were in an extremely difficult situation having almost exhausted all their coping mechanisms and resorted to detrimental changes in their dietary intake, including consuming less food and of a lower quality, with consequences in terms of deterioration of nutritional status, health, and food security.

This new situation prompted the allocation of a rapid response grant in February 2008 to undertake urgent activities for the mitigation of the crisis' consequences on most vulnerable urban and peri urban populations and to avoid a further deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Burkina Faso.

Response activities included:

- Provision of RUTF for the treatment of under five severely malnourished children;
- Purchase and distribution of food supplements (Plumpy Doz); and,
- Direct support to urban and peri urban farmers by provision of materials.

Taking into account the humanitarian situation and trends, requests to CERF (both Rapid Response and Underfunded Emergencies) were prioritized to nutrition and food security (including agriculture) sectors.

Activities and project prioritization was also based on:

- findings and results of recent surveys and assessments missions to ensure the relevance on the one hand between identified needs and planned activities, and on the other hand between vulnerable groups and geographical areas of implementation;
- agencies and partners' capacity to implement planned activities within a three-month timeframe (Rapid Response);
- agencies and partners' capacity to quickly reach results through new activities or the scaling up of ongoing activities; and,
- CAP projects funding level through Financial Tracking Service (Underfunded Emergencies).

III. Implementation and results

A. Underfunded emergencies window

NUTRITION

1. Coordination and implementation arrangements

Since 2005, UN humanitarian agencies in Burkina Faso have implemented CERF-funded projects. In this framework and taking into account complementarity and interlinkages between undernutrition and food insecurity, coordination mechanisms including joint assessments, joint programming and coordinated implementation aimed to give a high level of coherence, relevance and efficiency to the projects. This mechanism involved UN agencies, Government, Red Cross Movement and NGOs active in nutrition and food security sectors. At each agency level, a coordination committee composed of all stakeholders involved in the implementation met regularly to share results, experiences and difficulties related to project implementation.

2. Project activities and results

Through project 08-CEF-013 “Emergency Nutrition for Child Survival in Burkina Faso”, CERF funds were used by UNICEF to:

- Supply health facilities and public/private therapeutic feeding centres with therapeutic food (total amount of \$ 935,630), essential drugs and micronutrients supplements (\$ 60,949) and anthropometric equipment for screening and follow-up (\$ 30,123). UNICEF purchased 2,000kg of therapeutic milk F-75, 6,000kg of therapeutic milk F-100 and 11,200 cartons of RUTF (PlumpyNut), which were distributed throughout the country. It also provided the Centre and Centre-South Health Regions with anthropometric equipment such as baby weighing scales and Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) Tapes.
- Support integrated communication activities: promotion of exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of life; adequate complementary feeding practice from 6 to 24 months; hand washing with soap before feeding children and other integrated messages for behavioural change. In the Sahel, North and East health regions, four local radios have promoted the Integrated Communication Plan on Nutrition and other health education related topics.
- Carry out supervision visits needed to support health staff with training on the job for management of Severe Acute Malnutrition and Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI).

For WFP, CERF project 08-WFP-019 ‘Reversing Growing under nutrition in food insecure regions’ aimed to increase the beneficiary coverage, complement the assistance provided through the health centres, reinforce community-level capacity to manage undernutrition with a major emphasis given to community-based approach activities implemented in partnership with national and international NGOs. The project enabled WFP to assist the malnourished children and malnourished pregnant and lactating women in seven health regions including the centre-south and centre-east that were in urgent need of assistance and could not be covered by the current levels of funding.

The following quantities of food commodities were purchased: 524mt of cereals, 170mt of beans, 115mt of vegetable oil, 508mt of CSB (Corn and Soya Blend), 69mt of sugar and 27mt of salt. Just before the lean season, commodities were delivered timely to implementing partners, health centres, NGOs and community based organisations for distribution. 32,850 undernourished children under three years and 30,000 undernourished pregnant and lactating women have been assisted with supplementary rations during three months.

3. Partnerships

Globally, projects funded by the CERF Underfunded emergencies window were implemented thanks to constructive partnership. Thus, UNICEF worked in close collaboration with five implementing partners, among which were the Government, the Red Cross and NGOs. Following arrangements made between UNICEF and partners, drugs for the treatment of severe acute and moderate malnutrition (such as retinol, amoxicillin, ampicillin, mebendazole, albendazole, gentamicin, etc.) were procured by UNICEF and distributed to different health districts, regional hospitals and NGOs dealing with management of SAM, namely the ‘Croix Rouge de Belgique’

(CRB), Terres des Hommes (TdH), Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) – France, Save the Children (STC) – Canada and Catholic Relief Service (CRS). The allocation and distribution plan were carried out under the leadership of the Government and in collaboration with the decentralized levels (health regions, districts and centres).

The WFP project was carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, health regions and districts and with 19 national and international NGOs, among which were CRS, the Belgian Red Cross, HKI, Africare and Plan International. The cooperating partners were responsible for the selection of beneficiaries, the provision of the supplementary feeding rations, the management and the monitoring of WFP food aid distribution and reporting. All arrangements with cooperating partners were formalised thanks to Field-Level Agreements.

4. Gender-mainstreaming

The beneficiaries of the nutrition assistance were undernourished pregnant and lactating women, generally the most vulnerable groups to undernutrition.

5. Monitoring and evaluation

In accordance with agreements, implementing partners have provided UNICEF and WFP with monthly reports on the response activities. In addition, monitoring and evaluation missions were regularly organized by agencies for participative and inclusive assessment of the results with all the stakeholders (projects staff, implementing partners and beneficiaries).

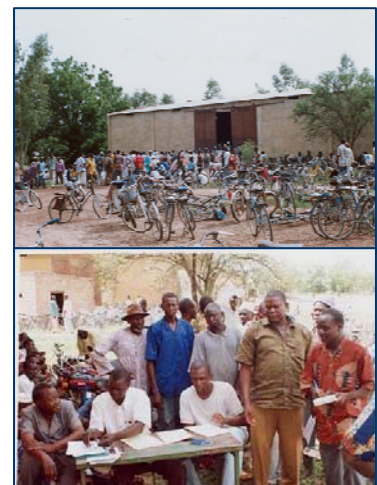
Thus, a monthly report was agreed between UNICEF and implementing NGOs to record and regularly share all requested data and indicators. UNICEF nutrition team in collaboration with the National Nutrition Directorate has carried out supervision visits to ensure an appropriate management of SAM and accountability of RUTF. The Government/UNICEF joint supervision teams have also worked together to reinforce the nutrition information system by designing management of SAM tools to be introduced in 2009.

Similarly, WFP was regularly provided with field reports on the use of food commodities and on the number of assisted beneficiaries. This information has been compiled in a database to inform the different project indicators. Regular Post Distribution monitoring surveys were conducted to assess the respect of selection criteria, of the rations distributed, of the use of the food by the beneficiaries and their satisfaction regarding food aid. In addition, regular visits are undertaken by WFP Food Aid Monitors.

AGRICULTURE

1. Coordination and implementation arrangements

The direct beneficiaries of the project are families in high food insecurity situations. In order to ensure greater coherence and results for CERF projects, priority was given to households with children in high, severe or moderate malnutrition situations, covered by the nutritional recovery programmes implemented by UNICEF, WFP and partners. This approach demonstrates a necessary partnership with these two UN agencies. Targeted households were directly assisted by FAO, within the context of actions to improve the sustainability of the availability and access to better quality foods for the project supports malnutrition prevention and/or nutritional recovery and it helps the protection and reinforcement of livelihoods.



Operation of inputs allocations to the project beneficiaries

Within a context of climatic shocks and high malnutrition, and according the last evaluation of agricultural production (DGPSA) and of food security (WFP/UNICEF), agricultural emergency action was necessary in the provinces most affected by climate hazards in order to restore the production capacity of vulnerable populations for the 2008/2009 crop season, to prevent a further deterioration of an already critical situation and reduce dependency to the food assistance.

The immediate needs were identified in the domain of access to production inputs for the 2008/2009 crop season. It consisted essentially in providing the vulnerable households with quality seeds of the main cultivated food crops during the rainy season (sorghum, millet, cowpea, groundnut and maize), fertilizers and products for harvest processing. Finally, in order to improve and balance the food intakes of the most vulnerable populations, and actively contribute to restoring food security, the allocation of market gardening seeds (off-season crops) was found necessary. These are short cycle crops, cultivated in small surfaces (easily irrigable) with high added value (that give some substantial incomes) and that participate to the improvement (richness in vitamins, minerals and vegetable protein) and diversification of food intake.

The *Coordination for Agricultural Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation* unit of the FAO, in charge of the 08-FAO-003 "Emergency agricultural assistance to vulnerable populations affected by climatic risks and food insecurity" project implementation, has set up a coordination strategy consisting of close partnership with the NGOs, local associations in all the regions of the country, and with the technical services of the Agriculture and Animal Resources Ministries. This network of the humanitarian community, development actors, sponsors and Government, allowed for a growing quantity of information and analysis about populations' food security status. It also helped to formulate and implement adapted response strategies.

2. Project activities and results

The intervention of FAO through this project permitted the populations stricken by the climatic shocks to start the crop season with more serenity, according to the food difficulties they used to face. Then the project permitted them to restore the lost balance in the very vulnerable families affected by the climatic shocks, allowing them to have good quality and sufficient quantity harvest. The project contributed to the food security in the provinces concerned.

Food and market gardening crops seeds distribution

Some millet, maize and sorghum certified seeds were ordered with the Burkina Faso national union of seed producers (UNPSB). The seeds reception and the delivery quality monitoring were ensured by the Regional Directions of Agriculture, Hydraulic and Fisheries (DRAHRH) of the project regions. In the centre-east regions, 8100 beneficiaries were identified and 54 tonnes of millet, 27 tonnes of sorghum, and 81t of maize certified seeds were allocated. However in the centre-south region, the supplier (UNPSB) had some difficulties to provide all the quantity of improved seeds expected.

In this region, 5,396 out of 8,100 beneficiaries were identified to receive the allocation kits. As for the quantity of improved seed allocated in that region, in total 231.3 out of 351 tonnes of cereal planned, which could be obtained from the UNPSB, was distributed to the beneficiaries. In all the regions the seed allocation took place in good conditions. Regarding market gardening crops, a total quantity of 253.3kg of onions, 30kg of okra, 60kg of tomato, 6t of potato seeds, and 48t of NPK, 24.2t of Urea and 2,400 watering cans were allocated to 2,400 project beneficiary households in the Sanguié, Yatenga, Koulpelogo, Kouritenga and Boulgou provinces.



A maize field of one of the project beneficiaries

Cereal and market gardening production

The production of allocated food seeds were evaluated by the technical and operational partners. The average yield evaluated was 2,500kg/hectare (ha) for maize, 1,000kg/ha for

millet and 900kg/ha for sorghum. Then in the centre-east region, about 14,850t of cereals were produced compared to 4,522.5t in the centre-south region. About 3,904t of market gardening crops productions are expected in regard to the market gardening seeds quantity allocated.

3. Partnerships

In the context of project implementation, a partnership was set up with some technical partners, namely DRAHRH and some other operational partners such as NGOs and associations. The technical partners who implemented the project are the DRAHRH of the centre-west, north, centre-east, and centre-south regions. The operational partners of the project in the centre-east region were DAKUPA, Regard d'Espoir, and the regional agriculture chamber (CRA). The operational partners received the agricultural inputs (cereal certified seeds, market gardening crops seeds, watering cans and fertilizers: NPK and urea), for \$ 79,507, to be distributed to the beneficiaries. For the centre-south region, the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR) and CRA were the operational partners. They have received respectively agricultural inputs of \$ 15,305 and \$ 27,009 that were allocated to the centre-south regional beneficiaries. Christian Aid/Association for Assistance in Yatenga, the operational partner in Yatenga province, received inputs for \$ 48,457 to be allocated to the beneficiaries. In the centre-west region, the Micro-dam Actions Association (AMB) was the operational partner and received market gardening crop seeds for \$ 35,874 to be allocated to the beneficiaries. The role of the technical partners was the reception and provision of the inputs to the operational partners for final distribution to beneficiaries. In addition, they also had to ensure the technical monitoring of the beneficiaries' production. The essential mission of the operational partners was the identification of the beneficiaries, the insurance of the inputs allocation and the monitoring of the activities carried out by beneficiaries.

4. Gender-mainstreaming

For beneficiary identification, the priority was put on the women heads of households (see photo below). This aimed for an equal acquisition of improved seeds for crops production. In fact women are the poorest in the rural communities and cannot have resources to purchase some improved seeds. A total number of 5,177 women heads of households compared to 10,719 men heads of households benefited from the project (32.6 percent of women).



Group of women waiting for their kits, and another group in their market gardening fields.

5. Monitoring and evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation system of the project activities consisted of periodical field trips by the FAO Emergency Unit and the daily monitoring of the operational and technical partners. This mechanism was efficient and helped for an effective implementation of the project in the country. It also facilitated the monitoring of the project beneficiaries' production. The main constraint of the system was that it required good support of the field partners, who sometimes have limited means to support the project implementation.

The monitoring of the operations in the field generated some information about the beneficiaries' expectations. Generally the beneficiary households were satisfied by the assistance that the project created.

B. Rapid response window

Thanks to the CERF rapid response window, assistance activities were quickly scaled up to mitigate the impact of the food crisis, especially among the most vulnerable groups of the urban and peri-urban populations in main cities. National and international NGOs were involved with UNICEF, WFP and FAO in implementing the response under the overall Government's coordination. This implementation strategy of working through NGOs as well as public health centres ensured larger beneficiary coverage.

NUTRITION

Considering the already high rates of malnutrition in Burkina Faso and the likely negative effect of a reduced purchasing power due to food crisis, nutrition programs were scaled up to prevent further degradation of the situation.

1. Coordination and implementation arrangements

(Coordination mechanism described on *page 4* is applicable).

2. Project activities and results

In order to respond to the situation and to avoid an exacerbation of the malnutrition rate, UNICEF applied to CERF's rapid response funds with the proposal titled 'Life Saving Nutrition Response to Food Prices Crisis'. Funds were used to provide the country with RUTF for treatment of under five severely malnourished children. Some 11,075 cartons of Plumpy Nut were purchased and delivered to governmental health facilities or granted to humanitarian NGOs, namely the CRB, TdH, MSF – France and STC – Canada.

During the period covered by this report, CERF funding from both underfunded and rapid response windows contributed to treat 21,325 children aged 6-59 months suffering from acute severe malnutrition. Moreover, expected outcomes were fully reached:

Cured rate (>75 percent) = 88 percent

Defaulters (<15 percent) = 6-9 percent

Death rate (<10 percent) = 1.5 percent

The CERF funding to WFP assistance under the emergency operation (EMOP 10773.0) 'Emergency Response to High Food Prices in Burkina Faso main cities' allowed WFP to purchase 139.7mt of food supplements (Plumpy Doz).

3. Partnerships

Partnership established with the Government (MoH and health centres), Red Cross and NGOs facilitated the selection of the beneficiary households, children under five and pregnant and lactating women and enabled the distribution of RUTF and food supplements ensuring a successful implementation of both projects.

4. Gender-mainstreaming

Because of their particularly high exposure to malnutrition, the beneficiaries of 08-WFP-093 'Emergency Response to High Food Prices in Burkina Faso main cities' nutrition assistance project are undernourished pregnant and lactating women.

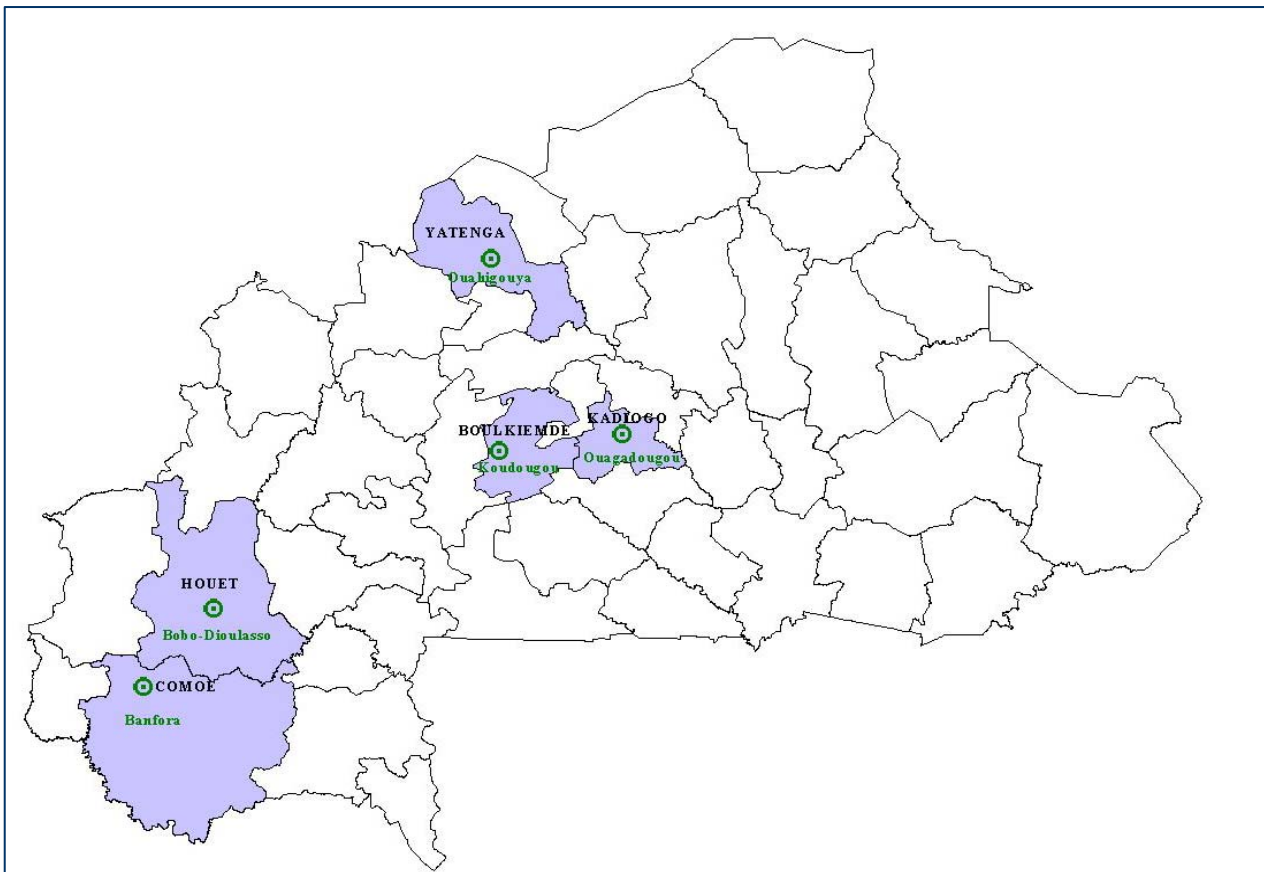
5. Monitoring and evaluation

The UN agencies implementing partners for nutrition assistance projects have provided monthly reports on the use of food commodities and on the number of assisted beneficiaries. This information has been compiled in a database to inform the different project indicators. Regular Post Distribution monitoring surveys were conducted to assess selection criteria of the rations distributed, of the use of the food by the beneficiaries and of their satisfaction regarding food aid. In addition, regular visits were undertaken by WFP Food Aid Monitors.

AGRICULTURE

The financial support of CERF allowed FAO to give appropriate support to 3,300 households in urban and suburban environments, and in five main towns of Burkina Faso as shown in the following map. In addition, thanks to a favourable rate of exchange (US\$/CFA Franc) during the inputs purchase period, the number of beneficiaries has been increased to reach 3,300 households.

Map 1: Localisation of the project intervention zones



1. Coordination and implementation arrangements

Project direct beneficiaries were farming households in high food insecurity situations. Priority was given to those with children in high, severe or moderate malnutrition situations and concerned by

the nutritional recovery program, implemented by UNICEF, WFP and their partners. This shows a necessary partnership with these two UN agencies.

Project activities and operations implementation required collaboration on the basis of a negotiated and formal partnership with different actors in their domain of competence. In fact, beyond the mobilisation of the staff of FAO Agriculture Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Coordination Unit that enabled the preparation and launching of the activities, project operation supervision and coordination, the mobilisation of specialized partners was necessary for the project's success.

The coordination mechanism was as follows:

- The FAO ensured the coordination, programming, planning, monitoring and evaluation and supervision of all the food security section activities; identified the partners and established the contracts with partners and technical teams; prepared the joint planning of the bid invitation, materials, and agricultural inputs distribution activities, monitoring and evaluation and report writing tools;
- In collaboration with the partners (technical and operational), FAO organises joint missions for the field operation formulations and monitoring and evaluation;
- As nearby operators, the NGOs ensure information sharing about the choice of zones, populations, activities to conduct and the logistic support for the execution.
- The agriculture technical services, nearby operators (regional directorates of the agriculture and animal resources ministry) organise the reception and distribution of the inputs, ensure the beneficiaries' training and the activities report elaboration;
- A regional coordination committee was created, composed of UNICEF, WFP, FAO and NGOs, as well as ad hoc partners according to the progress of the project.

The means necessary for the project implementation and monitoring in these five towns of Burkina Faso have been efficiently mobilised. Then, a coordination team made of a management staff, a technical staff and reinforced by a national consultant has been set up. The Unit then provided logistics (vehicles, telecommunication) and financial means, so that the coordination team could carry out its coordination and daily management and monitoring works.

2. Project activities and results

Beneficiary families were assisted by FAO, within the context of actions to improve sustainability of the availability and accessibility to better quality foods. The project objective was to prevent malnutrition and ensure nutritional recovery and to favour protection and reinforcement of livelihoods. Thanks to the project action, targeted vulnerable households have benefited, according to the making of kits adapted to the production zones, from 14,000kg of potato seeds, 511.25kg of other seeds according to the regions (onion, tomato, carrot, courgette, cucumber, etc.), 99,000kg of fertilizers (Urea, NPK), and 3,300 watering cans. The estimated total surface, evaluated on the basis of the allocated seeds, is up to 743.84 hectares. The total yield of the project is estimated at 16,681 tonnes of market gardening new produces, for a gross margin evaluated at 3,698,128,625 CFA F (about \$ 739,625.72), equal to a gross margin 1,120,645 CFA F (about \$ 2,241.3) per beneficiary household.

3. Partnerships

Project technical partners were the regional directorates in charge of agriculture, precisely the technical staff of five regional directorates in the five targeted regions of implementation. They have been directly involved in the project activities: support to beneficiaries identification, reception and insuring agricultural inputs transfer to the operational partners, technical assistance to beneficiaries, monitoring activities and coordination at the regional level. In addition, the staff of national seed service (SNS) was involved in the certification of the market gardening crops seeds distributed.

As operational partners, NGOs and the national associations essentially ensured the identification of beneficiaries and the practical organisation of the distribution operations in the field.

The tables below give the sharing of roles and the localisation of technical and operational partners during the project implementation.

Table 2: Roles sharing during the project implementation

Implementation stakeholders	Missions	Main tasks
FAO/Emergency Operation Coordination Unit	Project Coordination/management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposal and negotiation of the project ▪ Partners identification ▪ Elaboration of the monitoring tools ▪ Negotiation of partnerships ▪ Preparation and launching of the operations ▪ Financial and technical monitoring ▪ Project supervision, coordination and capitalisation
Operational Partners	Operational implementation of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beneficiaries identification ▪ Organisation of allocation operations in the field ▪ Assistance/advice to the beneficiaries ▪ Monitoring of the operations ▪ Report writing
Technical partners	Technical monitoring and local supervision of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support to the distribution operations ▪ technical assistance to the beneficiaries ▪ Supervision of the regional activities ▪ Report writing

Table 3: Project technical and operational partners

Region	Project site	Operational Partners (NGO or Association)	Technical Partners
CENTRE	Ouagadougou	A.I.D.O.S.	DRAHRH/ Centre
		HOPE 87	
Western CENTRE	Koudougou	A.M.B.	DRAHRH/ Western Centre-west
NORTH	Ouahigouya	CHRISTIAN AID	DRAHRH/ North
UPPER BASINS	Bobo Dioulasso	AFRICARE	DRAHRH/ Upper Basins
CASCADES	Banfora	WOUOL	DRAHRH/ Cascades

4. Gender-mainstreaming

Some cross-cutting issues such as gender have been mainstreamed in the project. The project was designed for an effective and positive impact on women as important elements of the family cell. The market gardening is essentially for women living alone, women heads of households and youth. Otherwise, the project implementation allowed the collection of data that helped to better understand the specific needs of women.

5. Monitoring and evaluation

The team in charge of the project implementation set up a monitoring mechanism. For that purpose, regular monitoring missions have been realised by the project team. The international consultant and the coordinator dealt with the planning, coordination and general supervision of the project activities, while the two national consultants (an agronomist and an agro-economist) ensured the close monitoring of activities in the field. Besides, many technical experts have been recruited by FAO for the daily monitoring of the producers. A close and periodical monitoring/evaluation of the

individual producers was conducted by the operational partners experts, supported by the agents of the decentralized structures of the Agriculture Ministry (provincial directorates of agriculture)

The FAO Unit also conducted monitoring missions in the different regions concerned by the project. Monitoring missions began in Upper Basins, Cascades and Centre-west regions and went on in the other regions and aimed to accelerate activity implementation in the field, through the objectives below:

- Clarification of project objectives and beneficiary identification (sampling);
- Information from technical and operational partners about the composition, division of beneficiaries, the quantity of inputs and materials and the kits planned for each project intervention site; and,
- Starting a reflection about the difficulties that can hinder the on-going of the activities in the field and the precautions to take.

The dialogue during the first missions enabled the partners to master the objectives and the terms of the project activities execution, and this was materialized by a memorandum of understanding. In addition it made the dialogue among the stakeholders of the project possible.

A second phase of missions conducted in the five regions enabled the FAO unit to:

- Notice the inputs and materials supplied by the suppliers to the regional directorates of agriculture and forwarding to the operational partners;
- Check the inputs and materials distribution to beneficiaries by operational partners and crops sowing in the production sites;
- Monitor parasite attack situations in the regions; and
- Facilitate communication with the beneficiaries and the partners about the progress of the project and contribute to the research of solutions to the difficulties met in the field.

IV. Results

Sector/ Cluster	CERF projects per sector	Amount disbursed (US\$)	Number of Beneficiaries (by sex/age)	Implementing Partners and funds disbursed	Baseline indicators	Expected Results/Outcomes	Actual results and improvements for the target beneficiaries
UNICEF (disbursement total pending confirmation from the Office of the Resident Coordinator)							
Nutrition	08-CEF-013 “Emergency Nutrition for Child Survival in Burkina Faso”	1,072,276.86	1,325 under five severely malnourished children 21,325 under five severely malnourished children	Ministry of Health MSF STC CnRB TdH CRS Radio Rural Du Sahel Radio – FM la Voix du Paysan Radio TAANBA Radio BUAYAABA DIAPAGA	Prevalence of wasting among children under three was at 17 percent in five priority regions (September 2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ By December 2008, all health centres and therapeutic feeding centres ensure nutrition care for children according to national protocol; ■ 57,790 undernourished children, of whom 17,590 are severely under-nourished and 40,200 are moderately under-nourished have been assisted in the two regions; ■ By December 2008, health services, therapeutic feeding centres, NGOs agents and community volunteers are able to screen and provide adequate care and proper treatment for acute malnutrition; ■ At least 75 percent of children treated recover properly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 21,325 children 6-59 months suffering from acute severe malnutrition were treated by NGOs implementing partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cured rate: 88 percent ➤ Defaulters: 6-9 percent ➤ Death rate: 1,5 percent ■ 186,000 children suffering from SAM were supplemented with micronutrients and de-worming drugs. ■ All public health facilities were provided with drug and therapeutic food for management of SAM. ■ Two out of thirteen health regions were equipped with anthropometric equipment. ■ The Integrated Communication Plan for Nutrition was launched and promoted in three health regions. ■ Prevalence of wasting among children under three has dropped from 17 percent to 13 percent in 5 priority regions between September 2007 and August 2008.
Nutrition	08-CEF-068 “Life-saving nutrition response to food price crisis”	701,025.70		Ministry of Health MSF STC CRB TdH		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cured rate: >75 percent ■ Defaulters: <15 percent ■ Death rate: <10 percent 	

WFP									
Nutrition	08-WFP-019 "Reversing growing undernutrition in food insecure regions"	1,497,295	32,850 moderately malnourished children under three 30,000 malnourished pregnant and lactating women	Ministry of Health, CRS, HKI, Belgian Red Cross, Plan International, Africare and local NGOs	Prevalence of GAM among children under three (Weight for Height < -2z) in WFP-assisted health districts-Base value: 16.5 percent in March 2007. Incidence of low birth weight (Percent infants < 2500g at birth) in WFP-assisted health-districts-base value: 16.2 percent in March 2007. Quantity of food distributed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce acute malnutrition among targeted children and women. Timely provision of supplementary feeding rations for the rehabilitation of moderately malnourished children under three. Timely provision of a nutritionally balanced food ration to malnourished pregnant and lactating women with the objective to reduce the number of low-birth-weight and promote exclusive breast-feeding during the first six months after birth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,423mt of food were purchased. The prevalence of GAM among children under three (Weight for Height < -2z) in WFP-assisted health-districts is 13.0 percent in August 2008. Incidence of low birth weight (percent infants < 2500g at birth) in WFP-assisted health-districts is 11.1 percent in August 2008 		
Nutrition	08-WFP-093 "Emergency Response to High Food Prices in Burkina Faso main cities"	750,213	43,590 6-24 months old children	Ministry of Health, Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Prevalence of GAM among children under two (Weight for Height < -2z)-Not yet available. Quantity of food supplement (Plumpy Doz) distributed-Goal=139.7mt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent increasing acute malnutrition among targeted children Timely provision of food supplements to 6-24 month old children living in poor and very poor households of the two major cities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 139.7mt of food supplements (Plumpy Doz) has been purchased. 		
FAO									
Agriculture	08-FAO-003 "Emergency agricultural assistance to vulnerable"	755,393	15,896	AMB, Christian Aid, OCADES, CONASUR, CRA Centre – south,		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21,600ha sown 8,100t of sorghum 4,500t of millet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 425ha sown with cereals 3 172.5t of sorghum 4 500t of millet 		

	populations affected by climatic risks and food insecurity”			DAKUPA, Regard d'Espoir, CRA Centre - east		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 20,250t of maize ▪ 2,400t of tomatoes ▪ 1,190t of onions ▪ 64t of okra ▪ 250t of potato 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 13500t of maize ▪ Market gardening crops sown
Agriculture	08-FAO-048 “Emergency Assistance to the farmers victims of the prices increase in urban and suburban environments and in five cities of Burkina Faso”	499,999.23	<p>3 300 households for the market gardening production</p> <p>A total 3 300 households</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture and its decentralized services (DRAHRH) of the regions of Centre, Centre-west, North, Upper Basins and Cascades</p> <p>Operational partners: AIDOS and Hope 87 (Centre), AMB (Centre-west), Christian Aid (North), Africare (Upper Basins) and WOUOL (Cascades)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase of sown surfaces (about 700 hectares) ▪ Increase of market gardening productions (at least 15,000 tonnes) ▪ Improvement of the producers net margin ▪ Availability and access to the market gardening produce for the consumers, specially women and children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase of the yield and production of the 2008/2009 off-season. ▪ Improvement of the agricultural income of the beneficiaries. ▪ Improvement of the socio-economic situation of the beneficiaries. ▪ Decrease of the market gardening produce prices at the market place. ▪ Accessibility of the vulnerable households to the market gardening produce. ▪ Improvement of the food situation for the vulnerable households. ▪ Restore of the producers interest in the use of improved seeds. ▪ Technical capacity building for beneficiaries in the market gardening domain. ▪ Preservation of the beneficiaries production asset.

V. CERF IN ACTION

Nutrition (Underfunded emergencies, UNICEF)

Health Facility of Timboura, BATIE, Burkina Faso, October 2008 – Maria is a 23 month old baby girl living in a very rural and isolated area of the South West Region in Burkina Faso. She may look like any other little girl, but she is very lucky to be alive as a few month ago she was seriously affected by malnutrition.

For Maria's family, life is an everyday struggle. Her father is a smallholder farmer and her mother helps him. They have five children aged between 2 and 10 and feeding them all is very tough.

Maria had been healthy until the age of 6-7 months, when her mother decided to stop breastfeeding her and to give her the family meal as she always has done with all her kids. Unfortunately, Maria, differently from her brothers and sisters, was refusing to eat and quickly fell into undernutrition.

Maria's mother could not explain why her little baby was refusing to eat and thought that "God wanted to take her away". One day a community health worker in charge of following up on children's' growth in the most remote villages of Timboura, saw Maria and immediately recognized a case of severe acute malnutrition. She referred Maria's case to the closest health post of Timboura and persuaded her mother to bring the baby for consultation. Once at the health facility of Timboura, Maria was screened and weighed by health staff. The diagnosis of severe acute malnutrition was confirmed, but fortunately Maria's condition was not too severe to need a referral to a specialized therapeutic feeding centre. Maria's mother was advised on appropriate feeding practices and she was given RUTF (PlumpyNut) bags provided by UNICEF to be used to feed Maria for two weeks. Maria's mother was also asked to come back to the health post after two weeks for a follow up check on Maria's nutritional status and to collect additional RUTF. Once back at her village, Maria was fed with PlumpyNut and rapidly gained some weight. She continued receiving PlumpyNut bags for approximately two months which allowed her a full recovery.

Today Maria is visibly healthy. She has a thick head of hair and is no longer underweight. With the help of UNICEF, Maria's mother is also learning how to provide her daughter with a more balanced and complete diet, even with minimal cost.



Agriculture (Rapid Response, FAO)

In the northern region known for its specialisation in potato production, one of the project beneficiaries, Mr Paul Ouedraogo received FAO inputs (seeds, fertilizers and watering can). Since the two last seasons, Mr Ouedraogo (Loroum province, Titao Department) had stopped the potato growing because of the climatic shocks that struck his family, the house, garret, and crops having been damaged. The 20kg of potato seeds received have been sown near other speculations. Sold at 200 CFA F/KG (about \$ 0.4) the profit of this producer, who reserved one-third of the yield for his own consumption, was 26,600 CFA F (about \$ 51). Beyond the supply of vitamins and minerals in the potato, the financial profit will help Mr Ouedraogo to pay the schooling fees and health treatment costs of his seven children.



M. Ouedraogo, one month after the sowing of potato seeds, checking the production level with one of the plants



About 200 kg of potato produced in the parcel of Mr. Ouedraogo.

Annex: Acronyms and Abbreviations

AMB	Micro dam Action (<i>Action Micro Barrage</i>)
CONASUR	National Board of Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (<i>Conseil National de Secours d'Urgence et de Réhabilitation</i>)
CRA	Regional Chamber of Agriculture (Chambre Régional d'Agriculture)
CRB	Belgian Red Cross (<i>Croix Rouge de Belgique</i>)
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSB	Corn and Soya Blend
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
DPAHRH	Provincial Direction of Agriculture, Hydraulique and Fisheries
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation for United Nations
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GoBF	Government of Burkina Faso
HIS	Health Information System
HKI	Helen Keller International
IDD	Iodine Deficiency Disorders
IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
MoH	Ministry of Health
MSF	Médecins sans Frontières
MUAC	Mid-Upper Arm Circumference
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
OCADES	Catholic Organisation for Development and Solidarity
OSRO	Office Service Relief Operations
RUTF	Ready to Use Therapeutic Food
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
STC/SCF	Save the Children
TDH	Terres des Hommes
TGR	Total Goitre Rate
UIE	Urinary Iodine Excretion
VAD	Vitamin A deficiency
WFP	World Food Programme