

BULLETIN SPECIAL | FSC BURKINA FASO

The Food Security Cluster (FSC) Burkina Faso informs you of priorities, risks and challenges in terms of food security during the 2022 lean season. Each bulletin will address a specific focus of the crisis and the response provided by partners. For more information contact Sarka Vlckova Sarka.vlckova@wfp.org

BURKINA FASO: From blockade to the brink of famine

The Sahel region under blockade

Since June 2022, there has been **an evolution in the modus operandi of unidentified armed groups**, who have **destroyed four bridges**, in particular on the Kaya-Dori, Kongoussi - Djibo and Sebba - Dori axes, **essential for supplying the Sahel region** with 1.3 million of population (INSD 2019). This tactic, **coupled with the planting of improvised explosive devices (IED)**, the **intimidation of traders and the ban on populations of certain localities from obtaining supplies in other towns**, resulted in making all the access roads in the Sahel basically impracticable for traders and humanitarian workers. This strategy is not limited to roads alone: **54 telephone antennas were sabotaged** between January and April 2022 (FewsNet), cutting off the region from the rest of the country and making cash transfer operations more complex.

This situation represents a sudden change of scale: whereas the blockade of towns had become a recurring problem (notably Djibo, Titao, Bourzanga, Sebba), **the entire Sahel region now risks being in a situation of blockade**.

ALERTE

Humanitarian Emergency declared

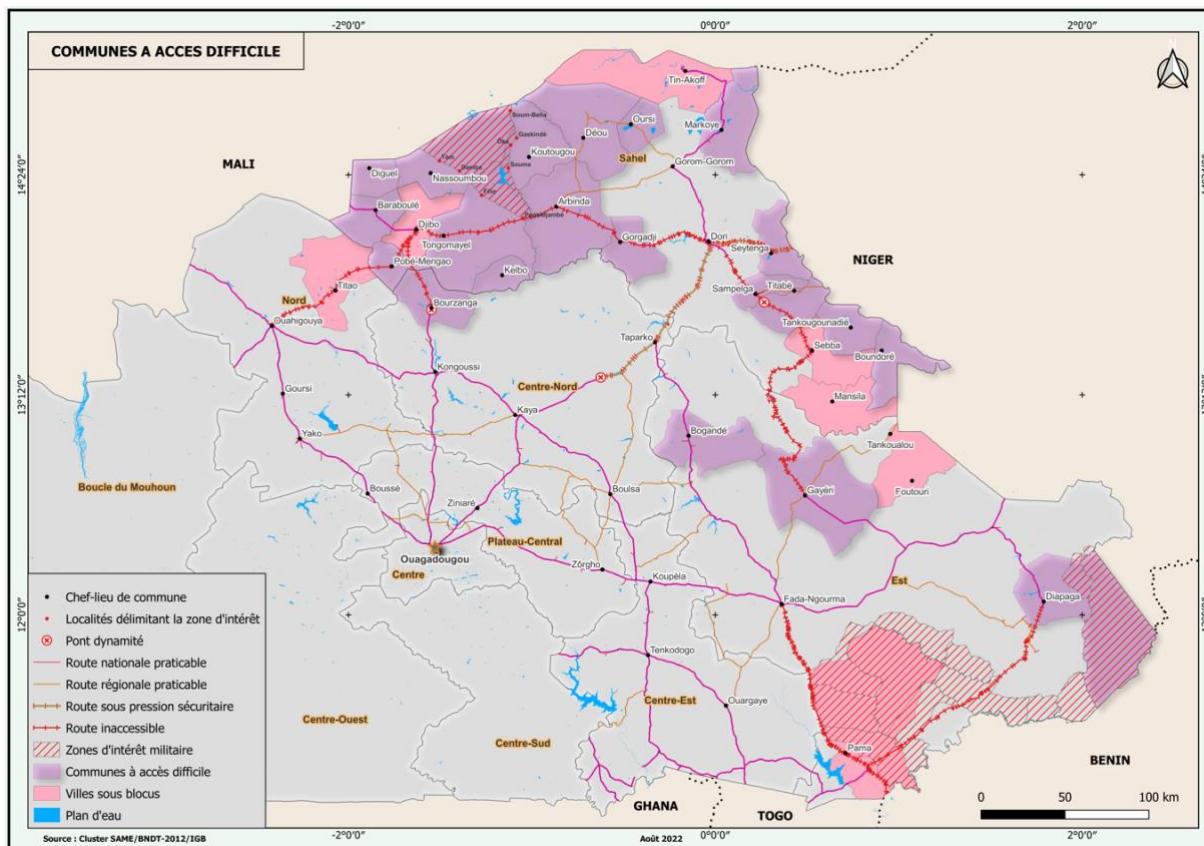
As of June 30, 2022, 96,272 people have been displaced from rural zones in the urban and peri-urban parts of the Sahel region (GCORR June 2022).

All 4 provinces of the region (Soum, Yagha, Oudalan and Seni) are in the emergency phase with more than 53% of people in food insecurity, of which 21% are in a situation of humanitarian emergency (CH March 2022).



Burkina Faso. Improving nutrition and economic empowerment through market gardens. (WFP/ Esther Ouoba)

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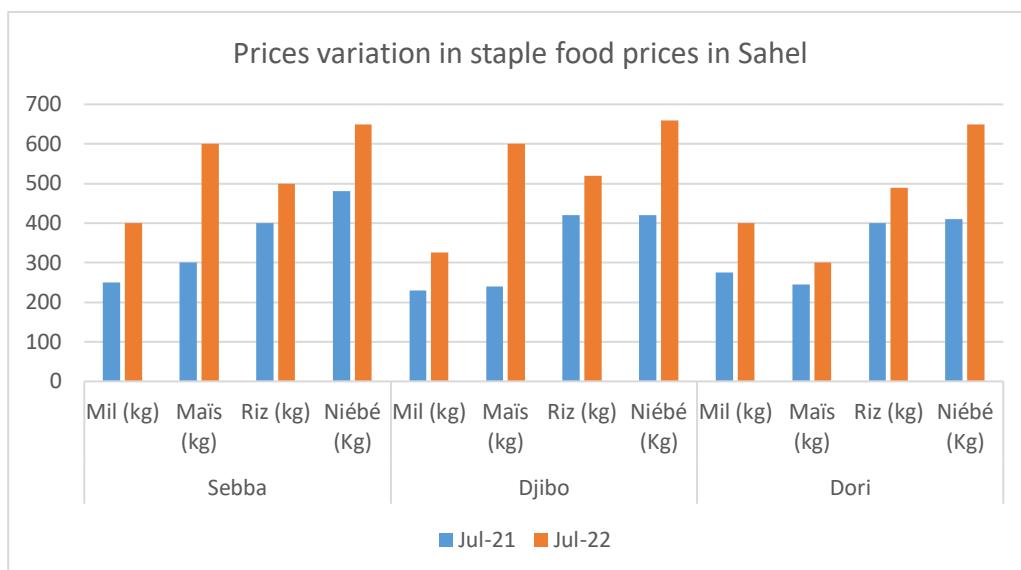


A massive impact on staple food prices

This **blockade phenomenon** aggravates the traditional isolation of the Sahel region by **considerably reducing the supply of basic goods**, in particular staple food and animal feed. The situation is further aggravated by the **massive displacements of rural populations to urban centres**, which have a strong **impact on local agricultural production**. At the same time, existing **food stocks are largely insufficient**. It is estimated that the traders of Dori, who supply the whole region, have capacity of only one month of stocks.

These factors translate **into an unprecedented rise in the price of staple food** and livestock feed (annual variation 67%), with **increases of up to 150% for maize in Djibo** compared to the same period in 2021, a year when prices had already reached record levels (SONAGESS-PAM). No product or city is spared, but the impact is particularly significant on the most consumed foods, and in cities facing the highest security pressure (PAM-SONAGESS).

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Food insecurity at an all-time high

The decline in food availability and the resulting sharp rise in prices have **a massive impact on food security in the Sahel region** and other areas under blockade. The February 2022 National Food and Nutrition Survey (ENSAN) thus observes **an unprecedented increase in food insecurity indicators** in each of the four provinces of the region since the February 2021 ENSAN, both on the Food Consumption Score (FCS) measuring the access to food, and the Coping Strategy Index (CSI), measuring the severity of the coping strategies used by populations:

	SCA Pauvre ³			ISSs Moyen ⁴		
	2021	2022	Variation	2021	2022	Variation
OUDALAN	0,0%	3,8%		4,24	10,34	144%
SENO	3,3%	17,1%	413%	4,12	13,27	222%
SOUM	2,0%	16,7%	739%	4,01	11,67	191%
YAGHA	3,3%	21,0%	529%	1,23	15,15	1128%

An essential but hampered humanitarian response

This situation places humanitarians in the face of several dilemmas in the choice of their response attitude. In a situation of food shortage, **in-kind distribution appears as the recommended modality**, but the situation is precisely caused by the impossibility of delivering in-kind food other than by air to areas that are not accessible by road. **Cash transfer interventions therefore appear as the main solution but face unprecedented challenges** in terms of the availability of foodstuffs on the markets, and requires measures to be taken to avoid aggravating inflation in the prices of basic foodstuffs.

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Nevertheless, thanks to the **use of innovative methods of access and intervention, close monitoring of markets, and strong collaboration between cluster partners**, the humanitarian community manages to overcome a number of these obstacles and to provide essential assistance in the region:



The FS Cluster partners have mobilized to provide a coordinated and harmonized response to **111,000 people who have been internally displaced** for less than three months and to the **120,000 vulnerable residents for the lean response**. **27,000 people received livelihoods support**, including donations of agricultural inputs.



In order to provide a response adapted to markets' capacity, part of the response is provided in **in kind food** and the other through various **cash transfer modalities**.

Cluster partners have distributed a total of **1.2 billion F CFA (USD 1.9 million)** and **1,274 tons of food in kind**.

