



Burkina Faso

Geographic Futures

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Table of contents

Summary	4
Burkina Faso: Introduction	7
Burkina Faso: Current Path	9
Burkina Faso: Scenarios	21
Briefly	21
Demographics and Health scenario	22
Agriculture scenario	26
Education scenario	29
Manufacturing scenario	32
AfCFTA scenario	35
Large Infrastructure and Leapfrogging scenario	37
Financial Flows scenario	41
Governance scenario	45
Burkina Faso: Scenario Comparisons	48
Burkina Faso: Conclusion	57
Annex	61
Donors and Sponsors	62
Reuse our work	62
Cite this research	62



This page explores the current and projected future development of Burkina Faso, examining various sectoral scenarios and their potential impacts on the country's growth. It explores eight sectors including demographic, economic and infrastructure-related outcomes for Burkina Faso up to 2043. The analysis also considers the implications of the Agenda 2063 goals, aiming to offer insights into policy actions that could enhance the country's developmental trajectory.

Summary

We begin this page with an [introductory](#) assessment of Burkina's context looking at the current population distribution and structure, climate and topography.

- Burkina Faso is a low-income Sahelian and landlocked country with limited natural resources. It is a former French colony that borders Mali to the northwest, Niger to the northeast, Benin to the southeast, Togo and Ghana to the south, and Côte d'Ivoire to the southwest. Since gaining independence in 1960, Burkina Faso has endured a turbulent history characterised by military coups and intermittent elections.

This section is followed by an analysis of the [Current Path](#) for Burkina Faso which informs the country's likely development trajectory to 2043. It is based on current geopolitical trends and assumes that no major shocks would occur in a 'business-as-usual' scenario.

- The population of Burkina Faso is growing rapidly at about 3 per cent per year. In 2023, the country's population was estimated at 23 million, and on the Current Path (business-as-usual scenario), it will reach 27 million by 2030 and 35.3 million by 2043. This represents about 12 million more people over the next 20 years.
- Between 1990 and 2023, Burkina Faso's GDP increased about sixfold from US\$3.2 billion in 1990 to US\$18.3 billion in 2023. On the Current Path, it will be US\$26.5 billion in 2030, and US\$58 billion by 2043. This is equivalent to an average annual growth rate of about 5.8% between 2023 and 2043. However, this optimistic economic growth forecast is contingent upon the ability to effectively respond to persistently high levels of political and security instability and climatic shocks.
- The GDP per capita (PPP constant 2017) of Burkina Faso increased from US\$1 266 in 2000 to US\$2 119 in 2023, compared to the average of US\$1 814 for low-income Africa in 2023. In the Current Path, the country will reach a GDP per capita of US\$2 493 by 2030 and US\$3 639 by 2043, above the projected average of US\$2 985 for low-income Africa in 2043.
- The poverty rate measured at the international extreme poverty line of US\$2.15/day (per capita, 2017 PPP\$) declined from 83% in 1990 to about 30.7% in 2019 (before the Covid-19 pandemic). In 2023, the poverty rate was at about 27.7% (6.4 million people). This is about 13 percentage points lower than the average of 41.5% for African low-income countries. On the Current Path, Burkina Faso's poverty rate will steadily decline to 19.6% in 2030 and to 7.9% (2.8 million people) by 2043 compared with the projected average of 24% for low-income Africa in the same year.
- In its quest to improve the living conditions of its population, Burkina Faso has developed and implemented a series of five-year development plans. The most recent ones are the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES-I) 2016-2020 and the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES-II) 2021-2025. The overall objective of the PNDES-II is to restore security and peace, strengthen the nation's resilience, and structurally transform Burkina Faso's economy for strong, inclusive and sustainable growth. It is unclear if the military government that took power in 2022 will release its own development plan.

The next section compares progress on the Current Path with [eight sectoral scenarios](#). These are Demographics and Health, Agriculture, Education, Manufacturing, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Large Infrastructure and Leapfrogging, Financial Flows and Governance. Each scenario is benchmarked to present an ambitious but reasonable aspiration in that sector compared to other countries at similar levels of development.

- The implementation of the **Demographics and Health scenario** will accelerate the demographic transition in Burkina Faso. In this scenario, the ratio of the working-age population to dependents will be at 1.71 by 2038 at which point the country will enter a potential demographic window of opportunity, provided other supporting conditions are in place. On the Current Path, this minimum ratio will only be achieved in 2044.
- In the **Agriculture scenario**, average crop yields could increase to 4.1 metric tons per hectare in 2043 compared with 2.6 tons on the Current Path in the same year. As a result, crop production will be 8.2 million metric tons more by 2043 than in the Current Path. This will result in a lower import dependency of 5.6% and 13% of total demand in 2030 and 2043, respectively, compared with 27.7% in the Current Path and below the projected average of 34% for low-income Africa in 2043.
- The implementation of the **Education scenario** would improve the mean years of education for adults aged 15 to 24 in the country to 7 years in 2030 and 8.6 years by 2043 compared with 6.8 years in 2030 and 7.8 years in 2043 in the Current Path.
- The continued reliance on agriculture and mining has led Burkina Faso's economy to being undiversified and vulnerable to exogenous shocks. Manufacturing forms only a small part of the economy. The contribution of the manufacturing sector to GDP has been declining from its peak of 19% in 1973 to 10% in 2019 and 9.6% in 2022 (the latest available data), on par with the average of 9.4% for low-income Africa. On the Current Path, the share of the manufacturing sector in Burkina Faso's GDP will likely increase to 16% in 2030 and 18.3% by 2043, above the projected average of 16.2% for low-income Africa in 2043. The implementation of the **Manufacturing scenario** could further push the share of the manufacturing sector in GDP to 16.2% in 2030 and 22.4% by 2043, above the projected average of 16.2% for low-income Africa in 2043.
- The trade pattern of Burkina Faso is similar to that of many other African countries that rely on a few key commodity exports while importing higher-value manufactured goods, consumer items and foodstuffs. As a result, the country's trade balance is structurally in deficit—a trend which is likely to persist over the forecast horizon. On the Current Path, the trade deficit will worsen reaching 6.6% of GDP in 2030 and 6.7% in 2043. In the **AfCFTA scenario**, Burkina Faso would not record a trade surplus or be a net exporter, however, its trade deficit would reduce to only -5.4% of GDP in 2043.
- Infrastructure deficit, especially poor access to electricity and the lack of a good road network, poses a major obstacle to Burkina Faso's economic development. Due to limited electricity access, especially in rural areas, the bulk of the households continue to rely on inefficient energy sources for cooking. It is estimated that around 81% of the population continue to depend on firewood and charcoal (used in traditional cookstoves). In the **Large Infrastructure and Leapfrogging scenario**, the percentage of households that use traditional cookstoves could decline from 88.7% in 2023 to 79.7% in 2030 and 43% in 2043 compared to 58.7% in the Current Path for 2043.
- Burkina Faso is not an important destination of international capital flows even though foreign aid played a significant role in the country's economic and social development historically, given its limited financial resources and high levels of poverty. In the **Financial Flows scenario**, government revenue increases to 24.7% of GDP by 2043, up from 20% in 2023. This is 1.14 percentage points of GDP above the Current Path in 2043, equivalent to US\$1.06 billion. However, without meaningful political reforms or assurances of stability, the resumption of substantial Western aid and FDI is unlikely.
- Burkina Faso faces several governance challenges that have impacted its development. Key governance challenges include political instability, insecurity and extremism and weak institutions. In the **Governance scenario**, the overall governance performance of Burkina is about 9% higher than the Current Path in 2043.

In the third section, we compare the impact of each of these eight sectoral scenarios with one another and subsequently with a **Combined scenario** (the integrated effect of all eight scenarios). In our forecasts, we measure progress on various dimensions such as economic size (in market exchange rates), gross domestic product per capita (in purchasing power parity), extreme poverty, carbon emissions, the changes in the structure of the economy, and selected sectoral dimensions such as progress with mean years of Education, life expectancy, the Gini coefficient or reductions in mortality rates.

- Burkina Faso gets a boost to its GDP per capita in all eight sectoral scenarios. However, the Combined scenario has a much greater impact on GDP per capita compared to the individual scenarios. By 2030, the GDP per capita of Burkina Faso (PPP) is US\$145, larger than in the Current Path. In 2043, it will be US\$1 120, larger than in the Current Path, indicating that an integrated push across all the development sectors could significantly improve the living standard of the people of Burkina Faso. Among the sectoral scenarios, the Governance scenario has the most significant positive impact on GDP per capita with an increase of US\$240 above the Current Path in 2043. The second, third and fourth most significant impact of the GDP per capita is achieved in the Manufacturing, the AfCFTA, and the Agriculture scenarios.
- All scenario interventions contribute to poverty reduction in Burkina Faso, however, the Governance scenario contributes most significantly to reducing the extreme poverty rate by 2043, followed by the Agriculture scenario. In the Combined scenario, by 2030, 16.4% of the population will be living in extreme poverty compared to 19.6% in the Current Path. Even under the Combined scenario, Burkina Faso's poverty rate will remain high at 16.4% by 2030. This suggests that without decisive action, the country risks significantly falling short of achieving the poverty-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). By 2043, the extreme poverty rate at the US\$2.15 poverty line will decline to roughly 2.6% (1.1 million people) compared to 7.9% (3.5 million people) in the Current Path in the same year.
- The Combined scenario significantly improves Burkina Faso's growth prospects. In this scenario, the average growth rate between 2025 and 2043 is 8% compared with 5.9% on the Current Path over the same period. The size of the economy measured in GDP at the market exchange rate (MER) is US\$2.2 billion and US\$24.5 billion larger than the Current Path in 2030 and 2043, respectively.
- In the Combined scenario, the average Burkinabé could expect to live about 2.6 years longer at 75.4 years in 2043, compared with the Current Path for the same year.

We end this page with a summarising **conclusion** offering key recommendations for decision-making.

Burkina Faso grapples with complex, interlinked challenges that have contributed to its economic fragility, impeding inclusive growth and development. The country's main growth constraints include insecurity, limited economic diversification, climate change and variability, low agricultural productivity, poor business environment, infrastructure shortages and limited human capital. Tackling these issues is crucial to set the country on a path of sustained growth and shared prosperity. The government should prioritise integrated policy reforms and investments that improve governance, address infrastructure shortage, facilitate private sector development, improve agriculture productivity, diversify the economy, and build quality human capital stock.

Burkina Faso: Introduction

Chart 1: Political map of Burkina Faso

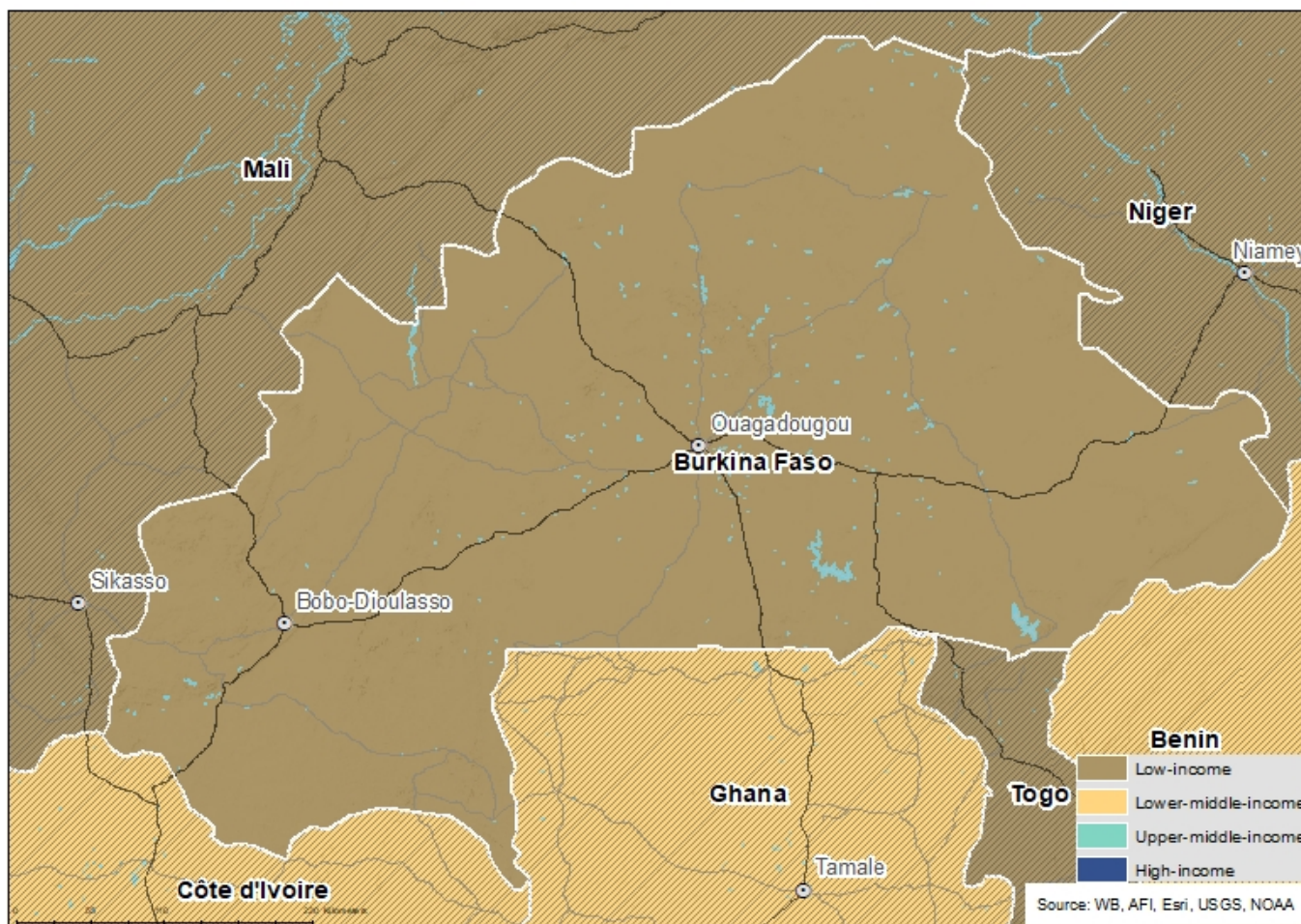


Chart 1 is a political map of Burkina Faso.

Burkina Faso is a landlocked country located in the heart of West Africa with a land area of 274 200 km². It lies between the Sahara Desert and the Gulf of Guinea, south of the loop of the Niger River. Burkina Faso borders Mali to the northwest, Niger to the northeast, Benin to the southeast, Togo and Ghana to the south, and Côte d'Ivoire to the southwest.

The country's post-colonial history is characterised by recurring political instability. It has experienced six coups (1966, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1987, and two coups in 2022), two attempted coups (1989, 2015), and one popular uprising in 2015.

Blaise Compaoré became president after his coup against charismatic leader Thomas Sankara in 1987, and ruled until his removal on 31 October 2014. After a one-year transition period (2014-2015) and two presidential elections (2015 and 2020), the country resumed with coups in 2022, against the backdrop of dire jihadi violence carried out by groups affiliated with al-Qaeda and Islamic State groups. In September 2022, Captain Ibrahim Traoré, the current head of the state, overthrew Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, who eight months earlier (January 2022) had ousted the re-elected president Christian-Roch Kaboré in 2020.

According to the 2024 [Global Terrorism Index](#), Burkina was the country most affected by terrorism in the world in 2023.

The deaths from terrorism were up by 68% in 2023 since the start of the jihadi violence in 2014. While there were fewer than 50 000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in January 2019, the country had 2.01 million IDPs by 30 March 2023 (the latest census to date), according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The crisis has severely **impacted** the health and education sectors. As of December 2023, 20% of healthcare facilities (413 in total) have been affected, restricting access to care for approximately 3.8 million people. Similarly, 5 330 primary and secondary schools—20% of the country's educational infrastructure—are closed, disrupting education for 820 865 students, including 396 716 girls.

Under Traoré, Burkina Faso drastically overhauled its external relations, breaking off the country's security cooperation with France and moving closer to Russia. The country used to be a member of the G5 Sahel alliance until it withdrew in December 2023. Similarly, Burkina Faso, which had been a member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) since its founding in 1975, announced in January 2024 its decision to withdraw from the organisation, effective 29 January 2025. In August 2024, it established the Confederation of Sahel States together with Mali and Niger. The Confederation originated as a mutual defense pact signed on 16th September 2023, following the 2023 coup in Niger. The confederation aims to promote cooperation and integration among its member states, particularly in areas such as security, defense, and economic development.

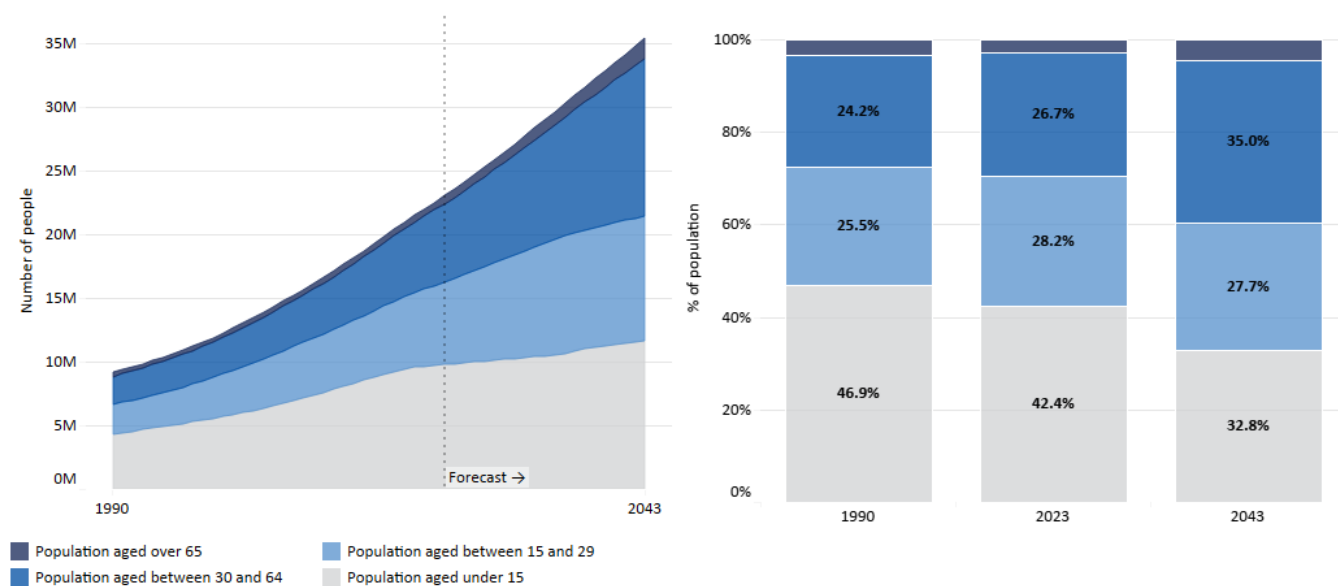
Burkina Faso is a low-income country with an economy primarily reliant on subsistence farming and livestock raising. Persistent challenges include highly variable rainfall, poor soil quality, and inadequate communication networks and infrastructure. The country also depends heavily on mining, particularly gold, which accounts for approximately 16% of its GDP and 80% of its exports.

The country is classified among nations with low human development. According to the **2023/2024 Human Development Report**, it ranked 185th out of 193 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI). Additionally, it placed 149th out of 167 countries on the **2024 SDG Index**, which assesses performance across the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Burkina Faso's development outlook hinges on the security situation and the expected impacts of a full ECOWAS withdrawal: lower trade with non-WAEMU (West African Economic and Monetary Union) ECOWAS states, and the associated higher investors' risk premiums, and increased regional financing costs.

Burkina Faso: Current Path

Chart 2: Population structure in the Current Path, 1990-2043



Source: IFs 8.34 initialising from UNPD population prospects estimate and WDI population data

Chart 2 presents the Current Path of the population structure, from 2019 to 2043.

The characteristics of a country's population can shape its long-term social, economic and political foundations; thus, understanding a nation's demographic profile indicates its development prospects.

Citizens of Burkina Faso, regardless of their ethnic origin, are collectively known as Burkinabé. The major ethnolinguistic group of Burkina Faso is the Mossi. French is the official language, and Moore, the language of the Mossi, is spoken by a large majority of the population.

The population of Burkina Faso is growing rapidly at about 3 per cent per year. In 2023, the country's population was estimated at 23 million, and on the Current Path, it will reach 27.1 million by 2030 and 35.3 million by 2043. This represents about 12 million more people over the next 20 years.

Contraception use was estimated at 31.2% of women in their reproductive age in the country in 2023. On the Current development trajectory, it will increase to 36.7% by 2030.

With a total fertility rate estimated at 4.2 children per woman in 2023, Burkina Faso has the 12th-highest fertility rate in Africa and slightly below the average of 4.8 children per woman for low-income countries in Africa in the same year. On the Current Path, Burkina Faso's fertility rate will decline slightly to 3.7 children per woman in 2030 and about 2.8 children per woman by 2043.

Burkina Faso's population is very youthful. With a median age of about 18 years in 2023, Burkina Faso has the 12th-youngest population in Africa, and its median age will modestly increase to 20 years in 2030 and 24 years by 2043.

Due to this youthful age structure, the dependency ratio is high, as a large portion of the population depends on the small workforce to provide for its needs—this constrains savings and investment in human and physical capital.

As of 2023, about 42.4% of the country's population was under 15 years of age. On the Current Path, the population below 15 will decline but will still constitute about 37.7% in 2030 and 32.7% in 2043. The share of the elderly (65 and above) has been stable over time — at about 2.7% in 2023— and will reach 3.2% in 2030 and 4.4% in 2043.

When the ratio of the working-age population to dependent is 1.7 or more, countries often experience more rapid economic growth, known as the **demographic dividend**, provided the workforce is appropriately skilled and absorbed in the labour market. Currently, the private sector's limited capacity makes it challenging to accommodate the large number of generally unskilled young job seekers in the country.

Burkina Faso is unlikely to reap its demographic dividend across the Current Path forecast horizon. The ratio of the working-age population to dependents stood at 1.2 in 2023—almost one working-age person for each dependent. It will only be at 1.4 in 2030 and 1.68 in 2043, slightly above the average of 1.5 for African low-income countries but still below the threshold of 1.7 that a country needs to enter a potential demographic window of opportunity. Burkina Faso only gets to this positive ratio at around 2044. However, Burkina Faso will enter this potential sweet spot almost a decade earlier than the average for low-income Africa.

Burkina Faso also has a large youth bulge at 48.9%. Youth bulge is the percentage of the population between 15 and 29 years old relative to those aged 15 and above. It will get to 48.4% in 2030 and reach 41.2% by 2043. In addition to the requirement for more spending on education, health services and job creation, large numbers of young adults can lead to positive political change in a country through youth activism, but they can also carry the seeds for socio-political instability in the absence of economic opportunities.

Chart 3: Population distribution map, 2023

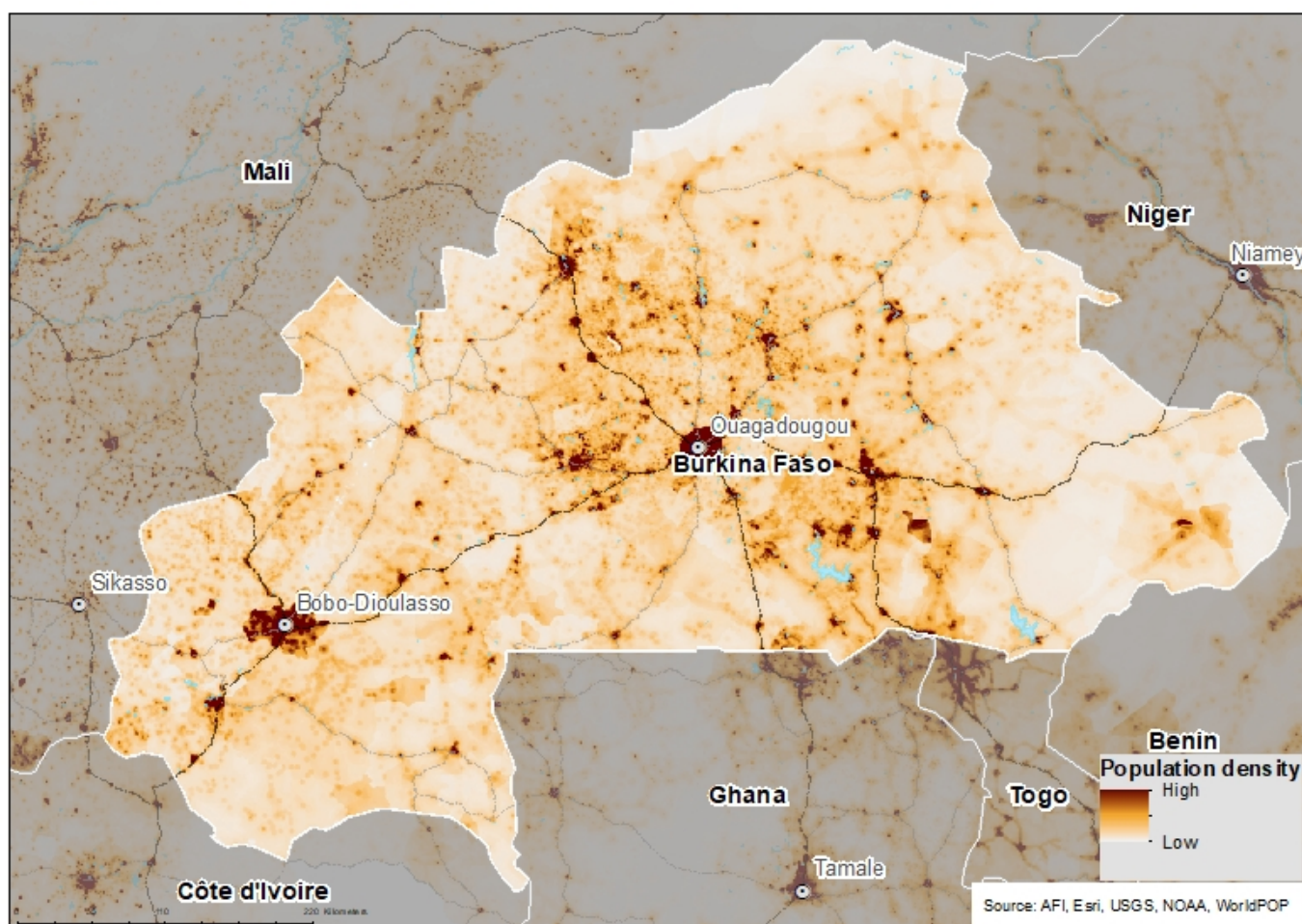


Chart 3 presents a population distribution map for 2023.

Burkina Faso has an average population density of about 0.8 persons per hectare in 2023. Population density is unevenly distributed, with higher concentrations in and around urban areas such as the capital, Ouagadougou, and Bobo-Dioulasso that also evidence more agricultural activity. Rural areas, especially in the northern and eastern regions (the Sahel region), have lower population densities. These areas are semi-arid, making them less hospitable for agriculture and currently impacted by insecurity. On the Current Path, Burkina Faso's population density will be about 1.0 and 1.3 people per hectare in 2030 and 2043, respectively.

Chart 4: Urban and rural population in the Current Path, 1990-2043

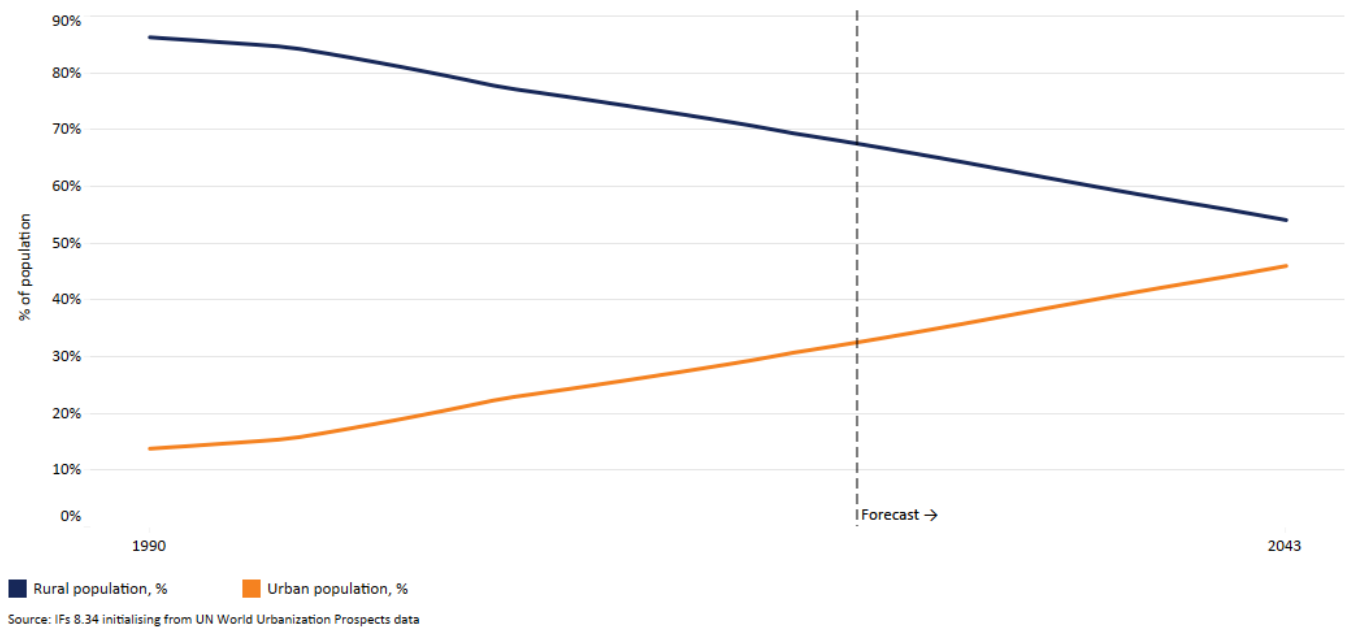


Chart 4 presents the urban and rural population in the Current Path, from 1990 to 2043.

Burkina Faso is late to the global trend of urbanisation similar to countries in the region. The population is largely rural at about 67.5% in 2023, on par with the average of 67.3% for low-income Africa. On the Current Path, the rural population will reduce by about 13 percentage points to reach 54% by 2043. This means the urbanisation rate increases from about 32.5% in 2023 to 36.8% in 2030, and 45.9% by 2043.

If well planned, urbanisation can be critical to economic growth and development, as it fosters entrepreneurship and increases productivity. However, limited supply of energy, infrastructure deficit, limited skills, poor business regulation systems and low access to finance impede the productivity potential of Burkina Faso's urban areas. The current government of the country needs to address these shortfalls while curbing unplanned informal sector development to reduce flood risks in urban areas. Burkina Faso, despite its generally arid and semi-arid climate, does experience flooding, particularly during the rainy season.

Chart 5: GDP (MER) and growth in the Current Path, 1990-2043

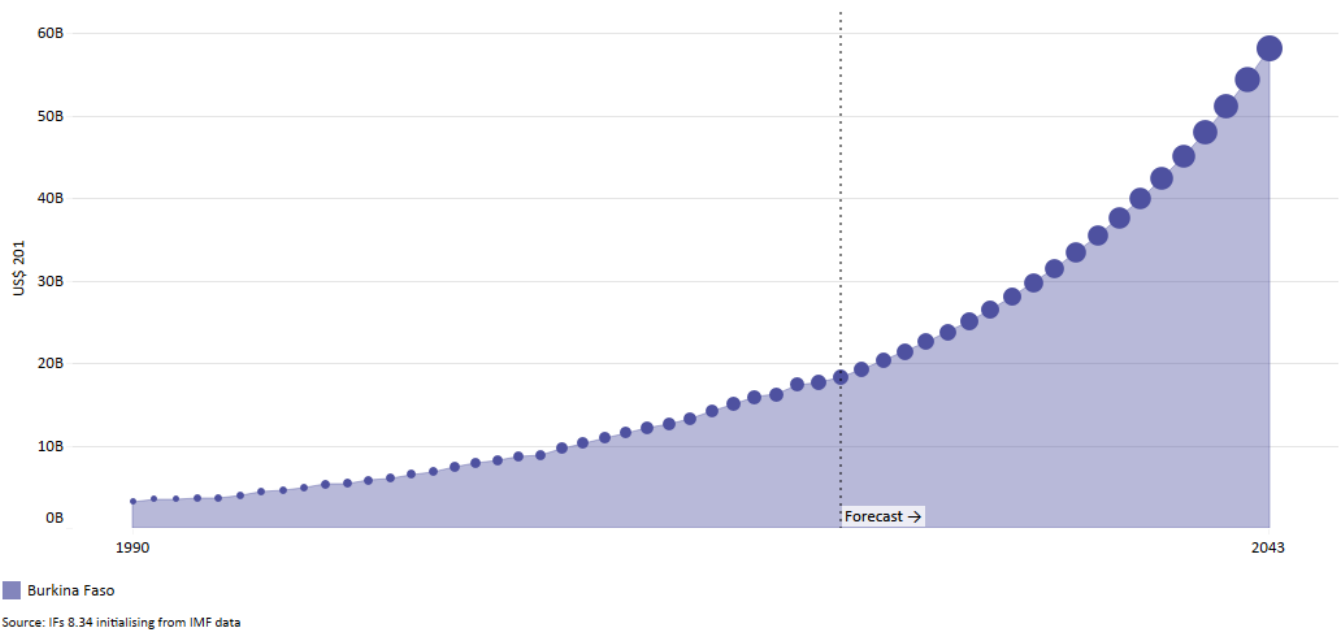


Chart 5 presents GDP in market exchange rates (MER) and growth rate in the Current Path, from 1990 to 2043.

Burkina Faso has limited natural resources. Its economy relies on agriculture and mining, particularly gold production. The agriculture sector entails primarily cotton cultivation, despite its low productivity and dependence on government subsidies, challenging climatic conditions, and an underdeveloped agro-industry.

Burkina Faso's economy is hindered by its **faulty** infrastructure, including limited electrical infrastructure, and vulnerability to the volatility of oil import prices as well as international commodity prices for gold and cotton. The structural challenges of the economy are the over-reliance on agriculture and mining, limited access to financial services, and low levels of human capital development.

Over the previous decade, Burkina Faso experienced relatively rapid economic growth, averaging 6% per annum between 2010 and 2019, driven by gold and cotton production. However, this growth trajectory was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by political and security challenges, with negative impact on growth.

After a slowdown in 2022 (+1.7%), economic growth bounced back to 3.6% in 2023, largely driven by the agriculture and services sectors. Cotton production, which had been affected by insect infestations in 2022, played a key role in revitalising agriculture. The resurgence of gold production, which accounted for 78% of exports in 2021, along with the reopening of previously closed mines due to security concerns and the government's renewal and issuance of new operating licenses, holds the potential to drive growth.

Regarding public finances, the country began fiscal consolidation in 2023, reducing the budget deficit to 6.5% of GDP. This consolidation was largely driven by expenditure cuts, primarily through reduced capital investment and subsidies, aided by lower international oil prices. However, military and humanitarian spending remained elevated. As bilateral donor grants decreased, efforts were intensified to sustain domestic revenue mobilisation. Despite these efforts, the fiscal deficit remained high, with public debt surpassing 60% of GDP in 2023.

Between 1990 and 2023, Burkina Faso's GDP increased almost sixfold from US\$3.2 billion in 1990 to US\$18.3 billion in

2023. It will reach US\$26.5 in 2030 and US\$58 billion in 2043. In the Current Path, the average annual growth rate between 2023 and 2043 is expected to be about 5.8%. However, this optimistic economic growth forecast is contingent upon persistently high levels of political and security instability, climatic shocks, terms of trade shocks, and the full withdrawal from ECOWAS, which could lead to a significant increase in supply costs due to the reintroduction of customs barriers, particularly with Ghana. Going forward, Burkina Faso will have to modernise its public affairs management, readjust public finances, reform the financial system, and improve the business climate to attract the needed investment for development.

Chart 6: Size of the informal economy in the Current Path, 2020-2043

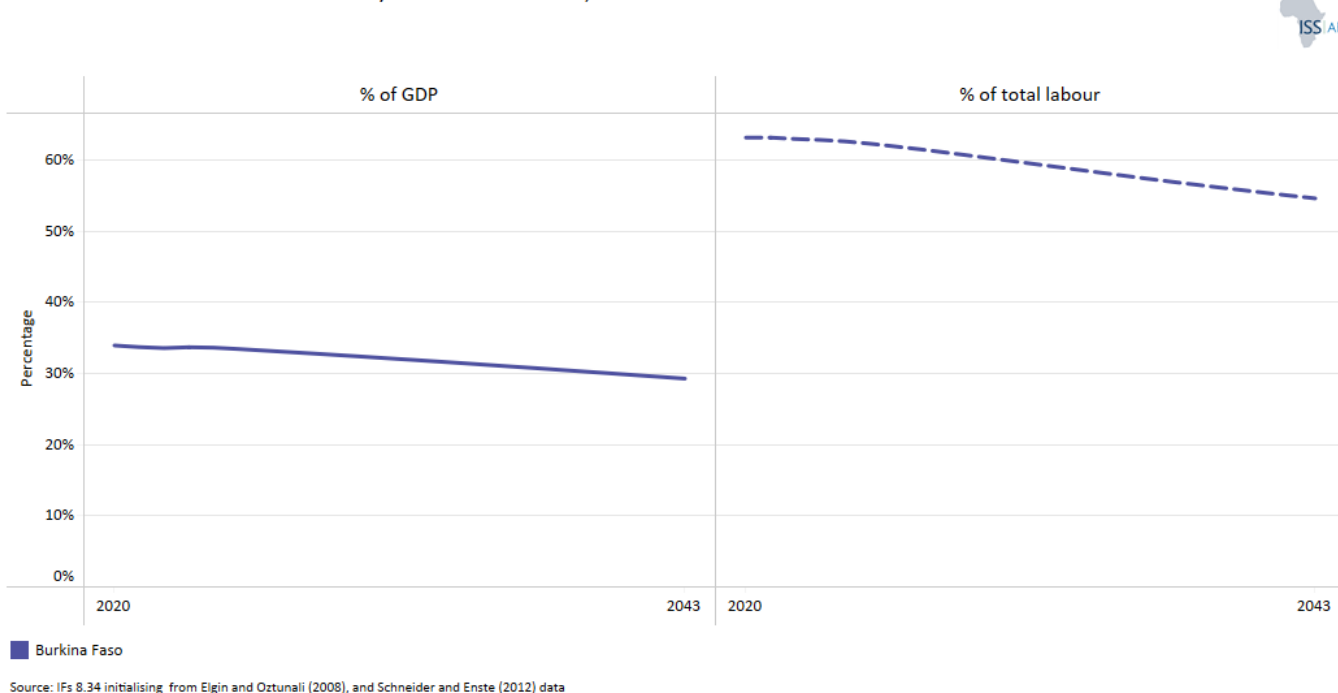


Chart 6 presents the size of the informal economy as per cent of GDP and per cent of total labour (non-agriculture), from 2019 to 2043. The data in our modelling are largely estimates and therefore may differ from other sources.

An informal economy (informal sector or shadow economy) is the part of any economy that is neither officially taxed nor monitored. Countries with high informality have a whole host of development challenges such as low revenue mobilisation, and economic growth tends to be **below potential**

Informality in poorer countries arises not only from burdensome regulations or weak enforcement but also as a consequence of **underdevelopment**. In wealthier countries, where advanced production technologies and favourable economic conditions prevail, workers prefer formal wage employment because of higher wages. Similarly, managers are more likely to register and operate formal businesses, as the greater income potential in developed markets makes formality more profitable, even with the associated costs of taxes and regulations. As countries advance economically, the size of the informal sector typically shrinks. A World Bank **study** found that about 30% of the increase in aggregate output driven by higher productivity is linked to a roughly 25% reduction in the average size of informal enterprises.

With limited formal sector opportunities, most of Burkina Faso's workforce is employed in the low-value-add informal sector. The size of the country's informal economy was estimated at 33.6% of GDP in 2023, above the average of 29.3% for low-income Africa. On the Current Path, the size of the informal sector will decline to 32.3% of GDP in 2030 and 29.3% by 2043. However, this figure will still remain above the forecast of 27% for low-income African countries in 2043.

Chart 7: GDP per capita in Current Path, 1990-2043

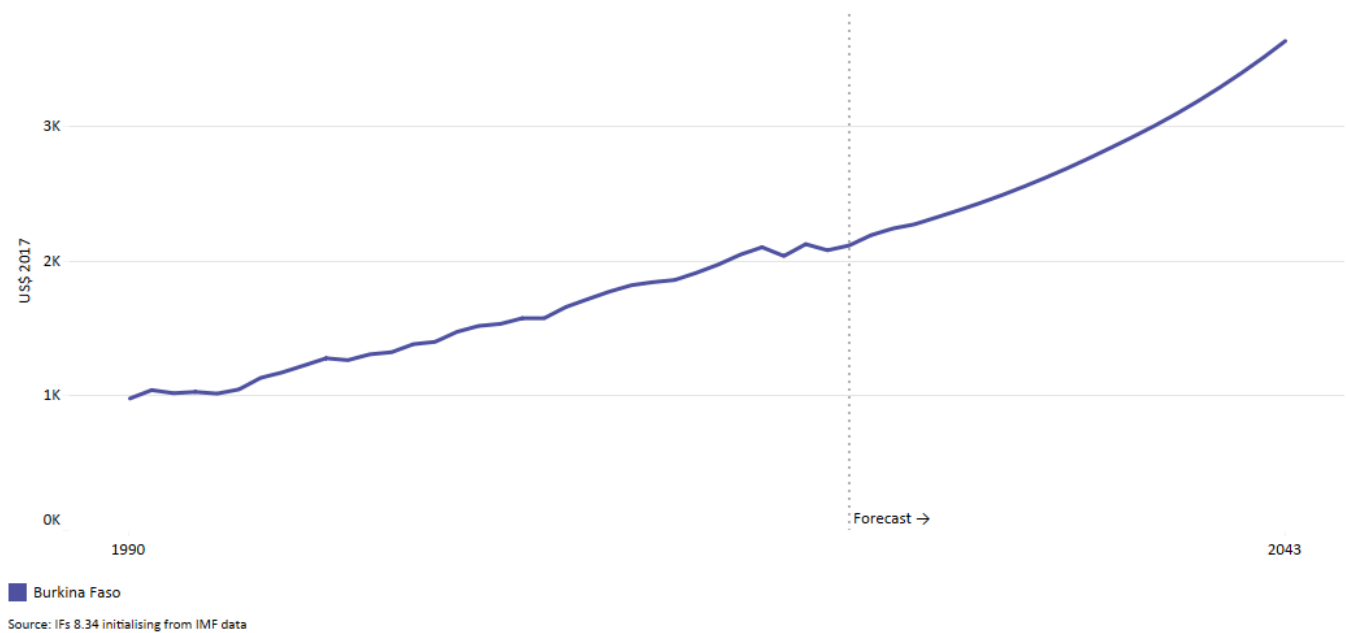


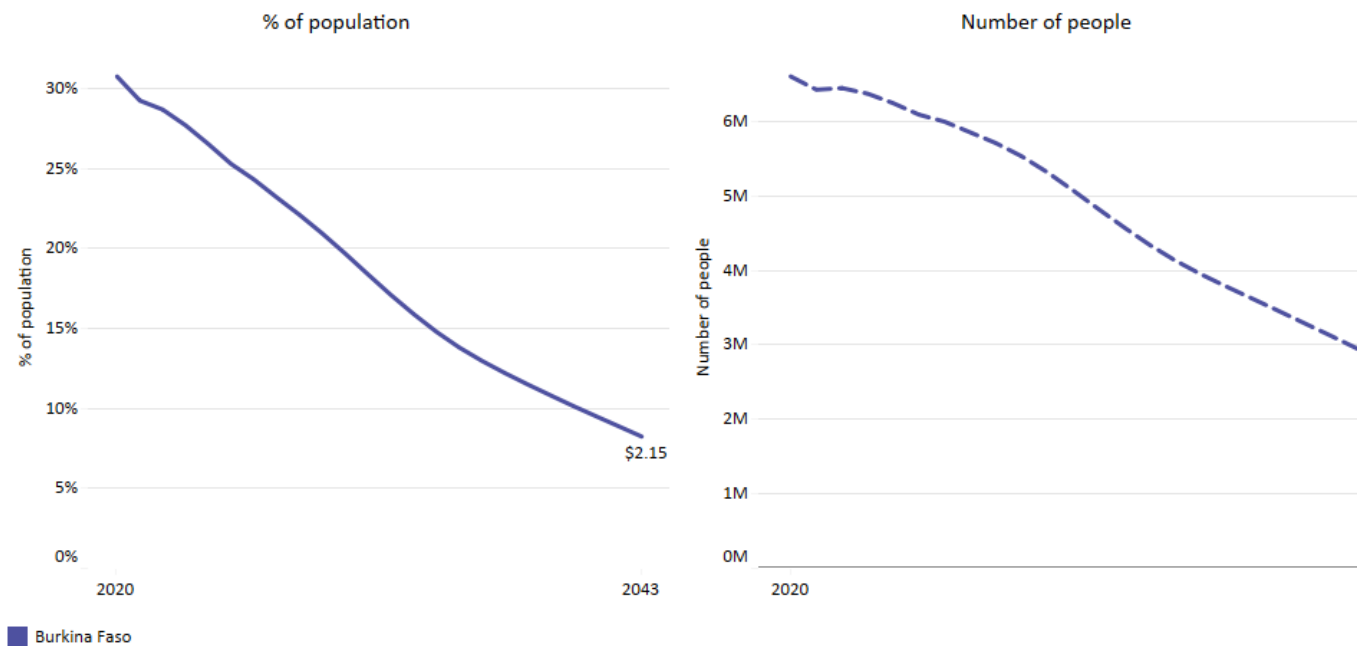
Chart 7 presents GDP per capita in the Current Path, from 1990 to 2043.

Despite being one of the least developed countries in the world, Burkina Faso's GDP per capita has almost doubled from 2000 and 2023 due to strong economic growth and decline in fertility rate. This helped the country reduce the large income gap with its peers. Since 2000, Burkina Faso's GDP per capita has been above the average for low-income Africa. For the preceding 40 years it was below the average.

The GDP per capita (PPP, and constant 2017 US\$) increased from US\$1 266 in 2000 to US\$2 119 in 2023, compared to the average of US\$1 814 for low-income Africa in 2023.

In the Current Path, the country will reach a GDP per capita of US\$2 493 in 2030 and US\$3 638 by 2043, above the projected average of US\$2 984 for low income Africa in the same year.

Chart 8: Extreme poverty in Current Path, 2020-2043



Source: IFs 8.34 initialising from UNPD population prospects estimate, WDI and PovcalNet data

Chart 8 presents the rate and numbers of extremely poor people in the Current Path from 2019 to 2043.

In 2022, the World Bank updated the monetary poverty lines to 2017 constant dollar values as follows:

- The previous International/PPP \$1.90 extreme poverty line is now set at US\$2.15, also for use with low-income countries.
- US\$3.20 for lower-middle-income countries, now US\$3.65 in 2017 values.
- US\$5.50 for upper-middle-income countries, now US\$6.85 in 2017 values.
- US\$22.70 for high-income countries. The Bank has not yet announced the new poverty line in 2017 US\$prices for high-income countries.

Since gaining independence in 1960, Burkina Faso has pursued economic growth as a strategy to reduce poverty and inequality. Over the years, poverty reduction efforts have evolved through four distinct periods of policy development.

From 1990 to 1999, the focus was on implementing five-year development plans and **structural adjustment policies**, along with other initiatives aimed at fostering growth. The period from 2000 to 2010 marked a renewed emphasis on planning, highlighted by the introduction of the Strategic Framework for Poverty Reduction. This framework prioritised equity, improved access to basic social services for the poor, social advancement, and the creation of job opportunities.

The period from 2011 to 2015 focused on developing strategies to accelerate economic growth and promote sustainable development. This was followed by the implementation of the Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES-I) (2016–2020). Currently, Burkina Faso is executing the Economic and Social Development Plan for 2021–2025 (PNDES-II).

These policies have contributed to poverty reduction (at least as measured using the monetary poverty line) even though a

significant portion of the population still lives in extreme poverty. Indeed, the poverty rate measured at the international extreme poverty line of US\$2.15/day per person declined from 83% in 1990 to about 30.7% in 2019 (i.e. before the COVID-19 pandemic). In 2023, the poverty rate was estimated at about 27.7% (6.4 million people). This is 13 percentage points lower than the average of 41.5% for African low-income countries. Extreme poverty in Burkina Faso is primarily concentrated in **rural areas**, highlighting significant regional disparities, and the need to better target economic and social policy measures toward rural areas and regions for a greater impact on improving the well-being of the population.

In the Current Path, Burkina Faso's poverty rate will steadily decline to reach 19.6% in 2030, and about 7.9% (2.8 million people) in 2043 compared with the projected average of 24.1% for low-income Africa in the same year.

However, monetary poverty only tells part of the story. The global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) measures acute multidimensional poverty by measuring each person's overlapping deprivations across 10 indicators in three equally weighted dimensions: health, education and standard of living.

On the **Multidimensional Poverty Index**, 64.5% of the population in Burkina Faso is multidimensionally poor, about 37 percentage points higher than the monetary poverty rate. An additional 15.8% of the population is also classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty. Multidimensional poverty is primarily concentrated in rural areas (79.4%) compared with 25.5% in urban areas.

The binding **constraints** to poverty reduction and shared prosperity in Burkina Faso are weak access to infrastructure, low agricultural productivity, limited access to education and health, increasing insecurity, climate change issues, low inclusion of women in the economy, weak public administration, political instability, and geographical challenges due to being landlocked.

Chart 9: National Development Plan of Burkina Faso

BURKINA FASO

Unité – Progrès - Justice



**Plan national de développement
économique et social 2021-2025 (PNDES-II)**

Juillet 2021

Chart 9 depicts the National Development Plan of Burkina Faso.

In its quest to improve the living conditions of its population, Burkina Faso has developed and implemented several development plans. The most recent ones are its medium term plans, the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES-I) 2016-2020 and the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES-II) 2021-2025. It is unclear whether or not the military government that took power in 2022 will release its own development plan.

The overall objective of the current National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES-II) is to restore security and peace, strengthen the nation's resilience, and structurally transform Burkina Faso's economy to achieve strong, inclusive and sustainable growth.

The PNDES-II is built around the following four strategic pillars:

- Pillar 1: Consolidate resilience, security, social cohesion, and peace;
- Pillar 2: Deepen institutional reforms and modernise public administration;
- Pillar 3: Strengthen human capital development and national solidarity;
- Pillar 4: Boost key sectors for the economy and job creation.

The plan aims to strengthen security, prevent conflict, and consolidate peace and social cohesion. In this regard, it seeks to better integrate security into planning and implementation and to increase the involvement of the population in development processes by further promoting tools for endogenous development. Based on this, it aims to enhance the transformation of the economy by leveraging the following:

- Increasing productivity in the agro-sylvo-pastoral, fisheries, and wildlife sectors;
- Developing small and medium-sized manufacturing industries, focusing on the processing of local products;
- Diversifying exports;
- Accelerating the demographic transition to quickly benefit from the demographic dividend.

The expected impacts of the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES-II) 2021-2025 are:

- Strengthening peace, security, social cohesion, and the country's resilience.
- Consolidating democracy and improving the efficiency of political, administrative, economic, financial, local, and environmental governance.
- Raising the level of education and training to better align with economic needs, while increasing the enrolment in technical and vocational training by an average of 8% per year.
- Creating an average of 50 000 decent jobs per year for young people and women.

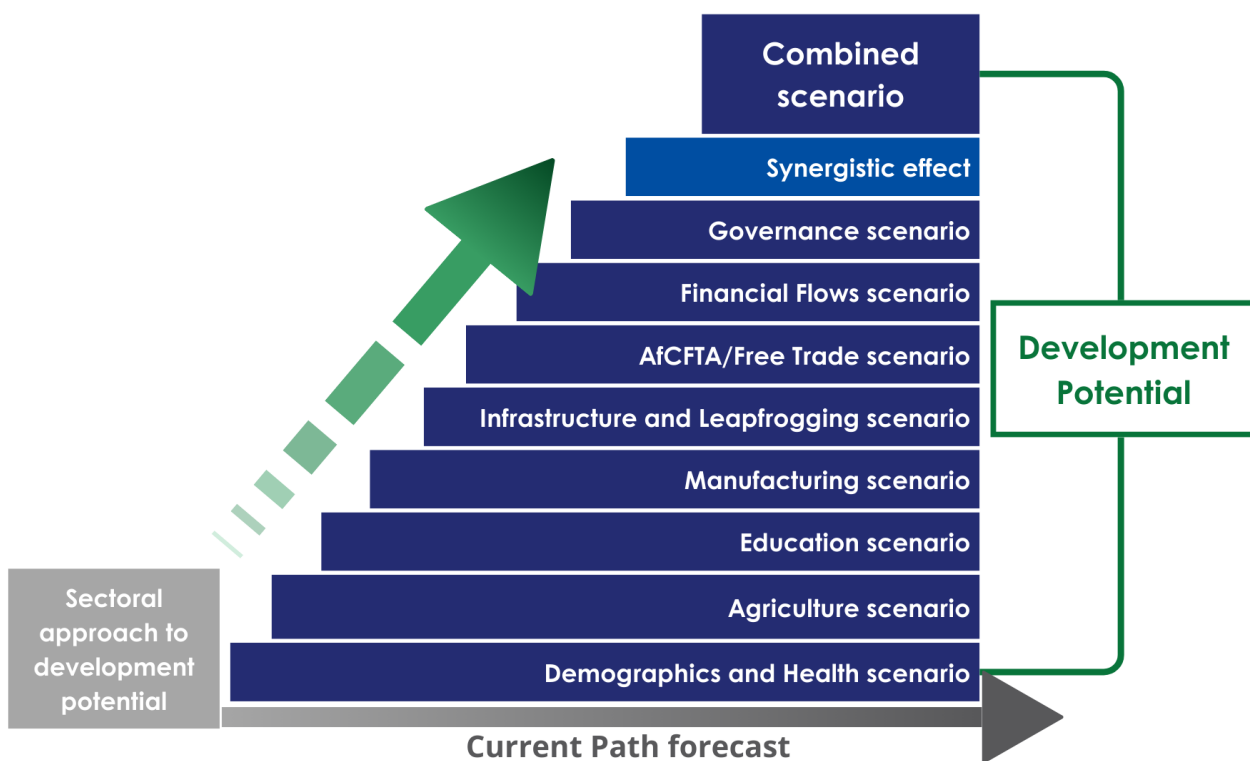
- Modernising, diversifying, and energising the production system, generating an average annual GDP growth rate of 7.1%.

Burkina Faso: Scenarios

- Briefly
- Demographics and Health scenario
- Agriculture scenario
- Education scenario
- Manufacturing scenario
- AfCFTA scenario
- Large Infrastructure and Leapfrogging scenario
- Financial Flows scenario
- Governance scenario

Briefly

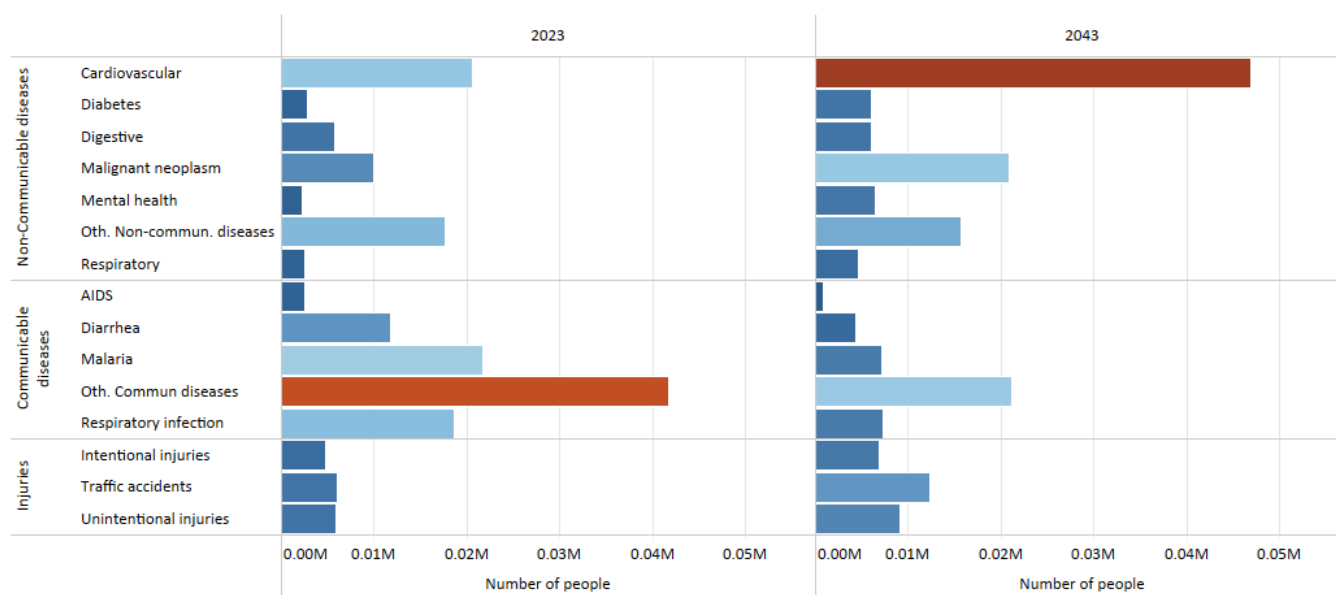
Chart 10: Relationship between Current Path and scenarios



The eight sectoral scenarios as well as their relationship to the Current Path and the Combined scenario are explained in the [About Page](#). Chart 10 summarises the approach.

Demographics and Health scenario

Chart 11: Mortality distribution in the Current Path, 2023-2043



Source: IFs 8.34 initialising from IHME data

Chart 11 presents the mortality distribution in the Current Path for 2023 and 2043.

There are strong interactions between population size and health. The status of a country's health influences levels of fertility, mortality and morbidity. At the same time, high population growth contributes to an increased need for basic necessities for life, such as nutrition and health.

Burkina Faso made progress in healthcare delivery through the construction and equipping of healthcare facilities, the provision of healthcare personnel to these facilities, and the reduction of maternal and child healthcare costs through the introduction of free care for certain services. Yet, the health system in Burkina Faso is generally poor and continues to face **persistent** challenges. These include (i) weak disease prevention mechanisms; (ii) limited physical and financial access to healthcare centers for a large portion of the population; (iii) insufficient numbers and quality of healthcare personnel and their uneven geographic distribution; (iv) shortcomings in the management of free healthcare for pregnant women and children under five; (v) persistently high levels of maternal, neonatal and infant mortality; (vi) high in-hospital mortality rates; and (vii) malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies among children.

Communicable diseases remain the leading cause of illness and death in Burkina Faso, with malaria being a major contributor. In 2020, the country recorded an estimated 8.1 million malaria cases and about 20 000 related deaths, making it the top cause of mortality among children under five. According to the **Ministry of Health**, malaria accounts for 43% of healthcare consultations and 22% of deaths.

Limited access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation and lack of hygiene kill and sicken many people, especially children, in the country. As of 2023, only 30% of the population has access to piped water while 24% of the population has access to improved sanitation. On the Current Path, 35% of the population will likely have access to improved sanitation by 2030 while 82.9% will have access to improved water, below the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of 98% in the same year.

Non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular and malignant neoplasm remain the leading causes of death among the elderly.

However, Burkina Faso has also made some progress in improving key health outcomes in recent years. The stunting rate among children under the age of five has significantly declined from 34.7% in 2010 to 22% in 2023, about 13 percentage points below the average of 34.7% for low-income Africa. Burkina Faso has already achieved the SDG target of 25% by 2030. On the Current Path, the stunting rate among children below five will decline to 18.3% by 2030 and 12.3% by 2043.

Maternal mortality has declined from 727 deaths per 100 000 live births in 1990 to 232 in 2023 compared with an average of 383 for low-income Africa.

Child (under five) mortality has also declined from 198 deaths per 1 000 live births in 1990 to about 100 deaths in 2023, while life expectancy has increased from 50.7 years to 64.3 years over the same period.

Despite this progress, Burkina Faso is not on track to meet the SDG targets related to infant and maternal mortality. On the Current Path, the maternal mortality rate will likely decline to 169 deaths per 100 000 live births by 2030, significantly above the SDG targets of less than 70 per 100 000 live births. This target will probably only be reached in 2043.

Infant mortality (under five) will also decline to 69 deaths per 1 000 live births by 2030 and 39 deaths by 2043, a far cry from the SDG target of 25 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2030.

The Government and development partners should strengthen their support for improving the health system. In this regard, USAID's health initiatives across Burkina Faso aim to improve the country's healthcare system. In collaboration with the Government of Burkina Faso, USAID focuses on reducing malaria-related morbidity and mortality, particularly among children under five and pregnant women.

However, as Western countries and international institutions often condition aid on political stability and democratic governance, the resumption of such aid is unlikely without meaningful political reforms or assurances of stability. In 2023, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provided approximately US\$111 million in funding to Burkina Faso, down from [US\\$121 million](#) in 2022. It remains unclear whether this decrease is linked to the coup.

Without foreign aid, health outcomes in Burkina Faso could significantly deteriorate unless the government enhances its capacity to mobilise domestic resources and manage priorities.

The Demographics and Health scenario therefore envisions ambitious improvements in child and maternal mortality rates, enhanced access to modern contraception, and decreased mortality from communicable diseases (e.g., AIDS, diarrhoea, malaria, respiratory infections) and non-communicable diseases (e.g., diabetes), alongside advancements in safe water access and sanitation. This scenario assumes a swift demographic transition supported by heightened investments in health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WaSH) infrastructure.

Visit the themes on [Demographics and Health/WaSH](#) for more detail on the scenario structure and interventions.

Chart 12: Infant mortality rate in the Current Path and Demographics and Health scenario, 2020-2043

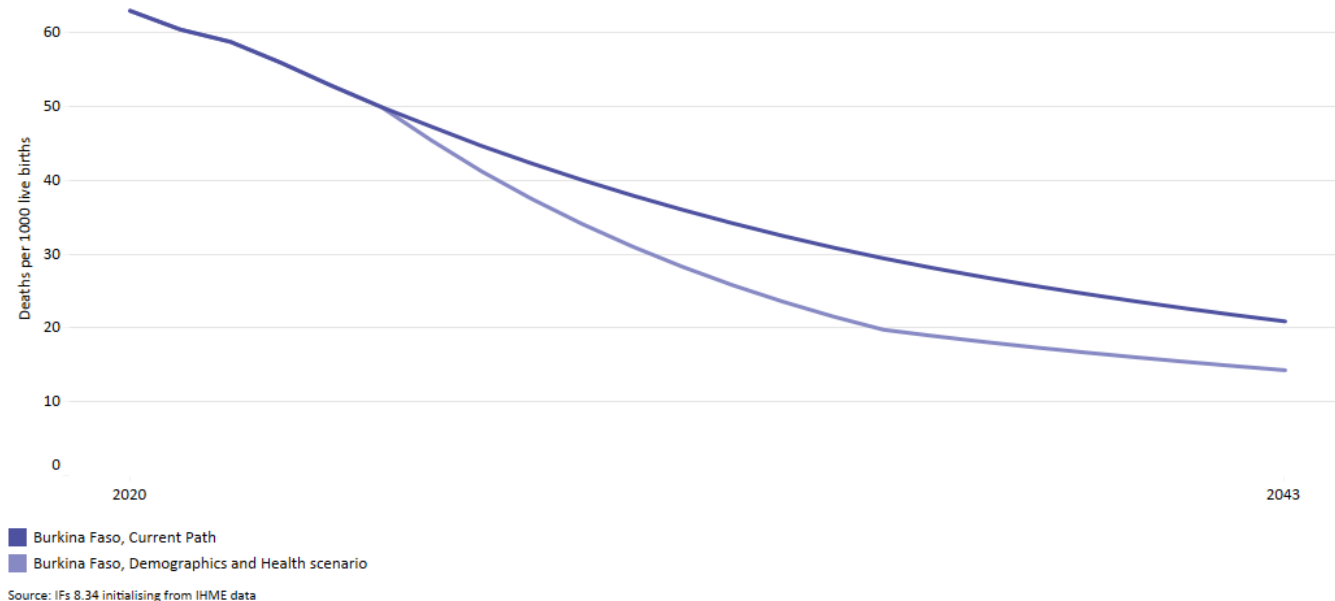


Chart 12 presents the infant mortality rate in the Current Path and in the Demographics and Health scenario, from 2019 to 2043.

The infant mortality rate is the probability of a child born in a specific year dying before reaching the age of one. It measures the child-born survival rate and reflects the social, economic and environmental conditions in which children live, including their health care. It is measured as the number of infant deaths per 1 000 live births and is an important marker of the overall quality of the health system in a country.

Infant mortality has declined from 109 deaths per 1 000 live births in 1990 to 56 deaths in 2023. On the Current Path, infant mortality will continue to decline to about 38 deaths per 1 000 live births by 2030 (above the SDG target of 25), and 21 deaths per 1 000 live births by 2043.

The interventions in the Demographics and Health scenario will see Burkina Faso's infant mortality rate drop to 31 deaths per 1 000 live births by 2030 and 14 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2043, below the projected average of 24 deaths for low-income Africa in 2043.

Chart 13: Demographic dividend in the Current Path and the Demographics and Health scenario, 2020-2043

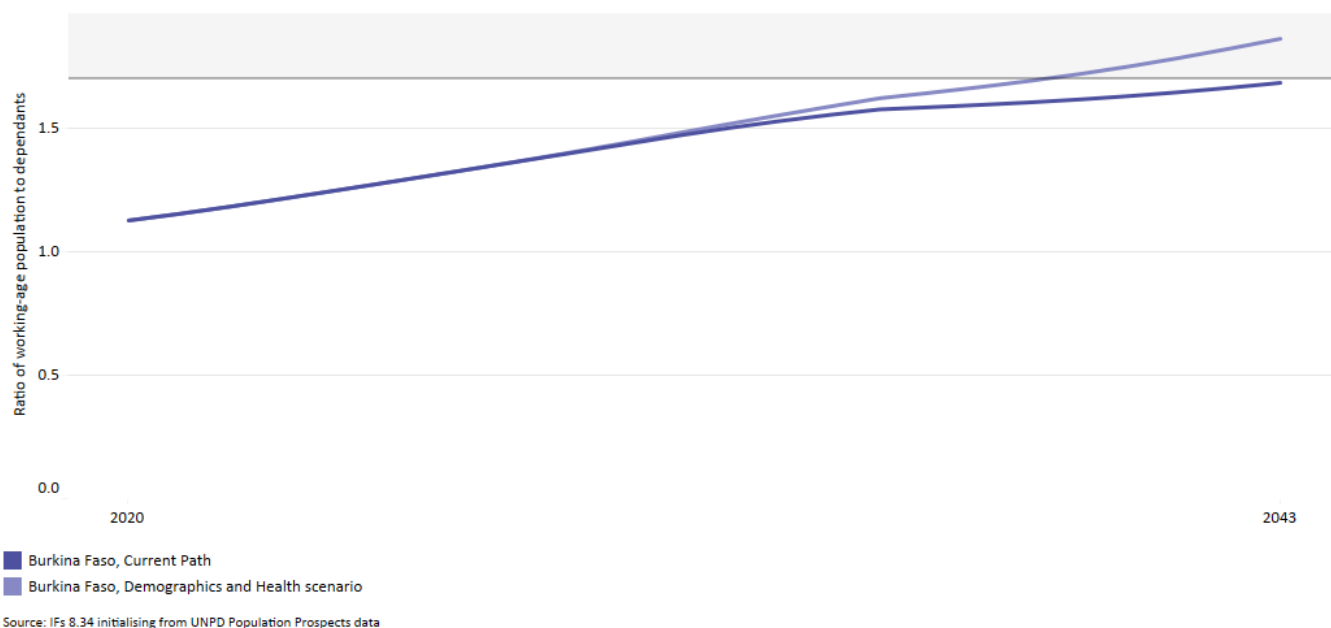


Chart 13 presents the demographic dividend in the Current Path and in the Demographics and Health scenario, from 2019 to 2043.

The demographic dividend is the economic growth generated by change in a country’s demographic structure. A potential demographic window of opportunity opens when the ratio of working-age persons to dependents (children and elderly) increases to at least 1.7 to one. However, this is not straightforward, the labour force need to be properly skilled and productively integrated into the economy.

The implementation of the Demographics and Health scenario will accelerate the demographic transition in Burkina Faso. In this scenario, the ratio of the working-age population to dependents will reach the 1.7 threshold by 2038. On the Current Path, this minimum ratio will only be achieved in 2044. The materialisation of the demographic dividend (growth generated by change in a country’s population structure) is not straightforward; the growing labour force needs to be properly skilled and productively integrated into the economy.

Agriculture scenario

Chart 14: Crop production and demand in the Current Path, 1990-2043

Area chart show demand less production

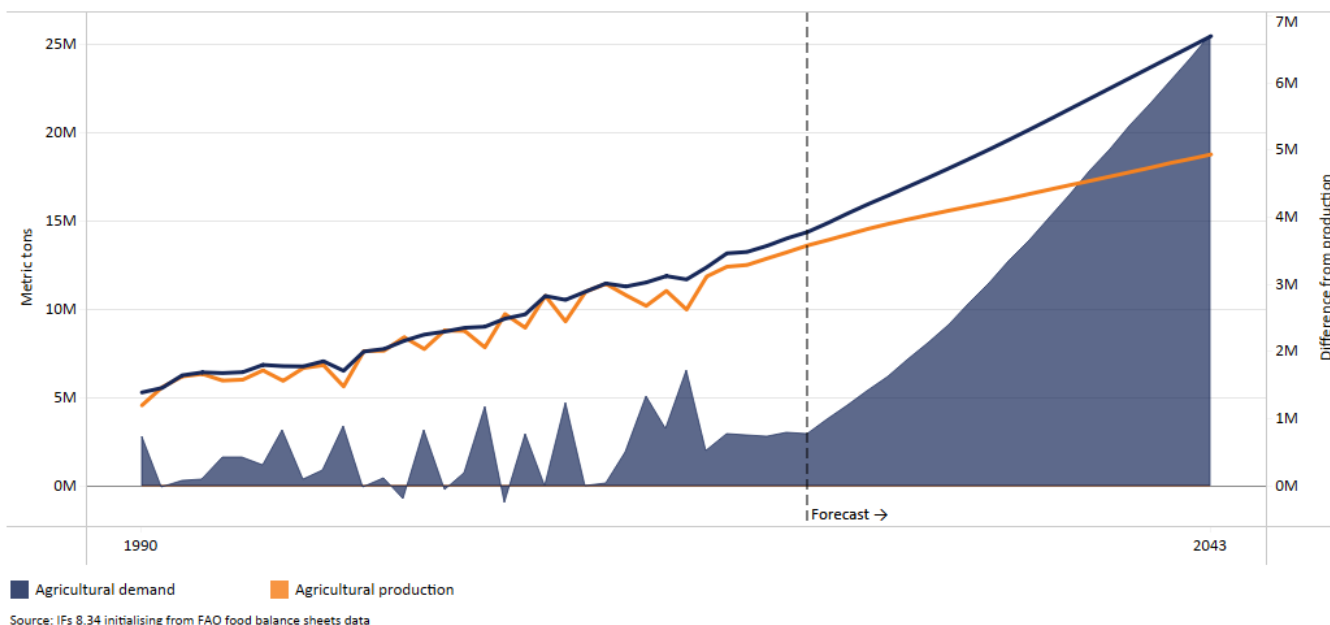


Chart 14 presents crop production and demand in the Current Path from 1990 to 2043.

Agriculture plays a crucial role in Burkina Faso's economy and the livelihoods of its people. Although its contribution to the national economy has declined over time, it still accounts for about a quarter of the country's GDP, and employs **71%** of the nation's poor.

The sector is primarily made up of small-scale farms, each typically less than **five hectares** in size, producing key crops like sorghum, millet and maize (the highest in volume) as well as cotton (the most valuable). Before the rise of gold mining, cotton was the country's leading export, and Burkina Faso is a top cotton producer and exporter in Africa. Traditional **cereals**, such as sorghum and millet, form the dietary staples of rural households, while urban residents favour rice and maize.

Agricultural production in Burkina Faso is generally characterised by low yields in both crops and livestock, mainly sustaining subsistence-level livelihoods. Although progress in the agricultural sector has reduced the threat of recurring famine, food insecurity remains a serious issue, affecting over **3.5 million** people—about 20% of the population. In 2023, about 13% of the population was malnourished. On the current trajectory, the share of malnourished population will decrease to 12% by 2030 (still above the SDG target of 3%) and to 8.8% by 2043.

Despite being one of the few African countries to meet the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) target of allocating at least 10% of the national budget to agriculture, Burkina Faso has one of the lowest average crop yields per hectare on the continent. In 2023, the country's yield was estimated at 2.2 tons per hectare, ranking it 40th out of 54 African nations. While this represents a 57% increase from 1.4 tons per hectare in 1990, it remains low. Burkina Faso's crop yields will rise only slightly to 2.3 and 2.6 tons per hectare in 2030 and 2043, respectively, still falling short of the 3.5 tons per hectare average projected for low-income African countries in 2043.

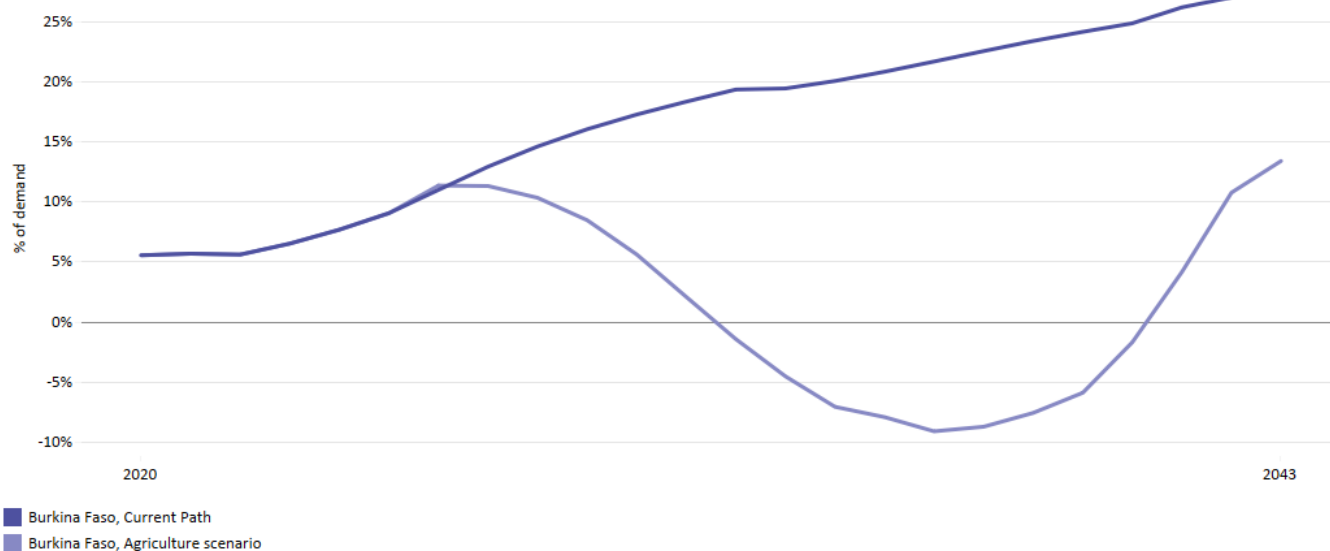
The country's low agricultural productivity is driven by several **challenges**, including limited access to quality inputs and services, high costs of inputs and equipment, insecure land tenure, lack of access to profitable markets, insufficient financial services, limited producer knowledge and capacity, poor transportation infrastructure, and inadequate irrigation systems. These challenges are compounded by the effects of climate change and growing insecurity, which further threaten an already vulnerable agricultural sector.

Going forward, feeding the growing population under such conditions will be one of the country's biggest challenges. In 2023, an estimated 13.2 million metric tons of crops were produced, a significant increase from the 5.3 million metric tons produced in 1990. On the Current Path, crop production will increase to about 15.6 million and 18.8 million metric tons by 2030 and 2043, respectively, while crop demand is set to increase from 14.4 million metric tons in 2023 to about 18 million and 25.5 million metric tons by 2030 and 2043, respectively. This leads to a deficit of 8 million metric tons in 2043. The Current Path paints a picture of a growing gap between domestic food production and demand, a situation that will exacerbate the country's agricultural trade deficit with agricultural import dependency of 17.3% of total demand in 2030 and 27.7% of total demand by 2043 compared to 6.5% in 2023.

The Agriculture scenario envisions an agricultural revolution that ensures food security through ambitious yet feasible increases in yields per hectare, thanks to improved management, seed, fertiliser technology, and expanded irrigation and equipped land. Efforts to reduce food loss and waste are emphasised, with increased calorie consumption as an indicator of self-sufficiency and prioritising it over food exports. Additionally, the scenario includes enhanced forest protection signifying a commitment to sustainable land use practices.

Visit the theme on [Agriculture](#) for our conceptualisation and details on the scenario structure and interventions

Chart 15: Import dependence in the Current Path and Agriculture scenario, 2020-2043



Source: IFs 8.34 initialising from FAO Food Balance Sheets data

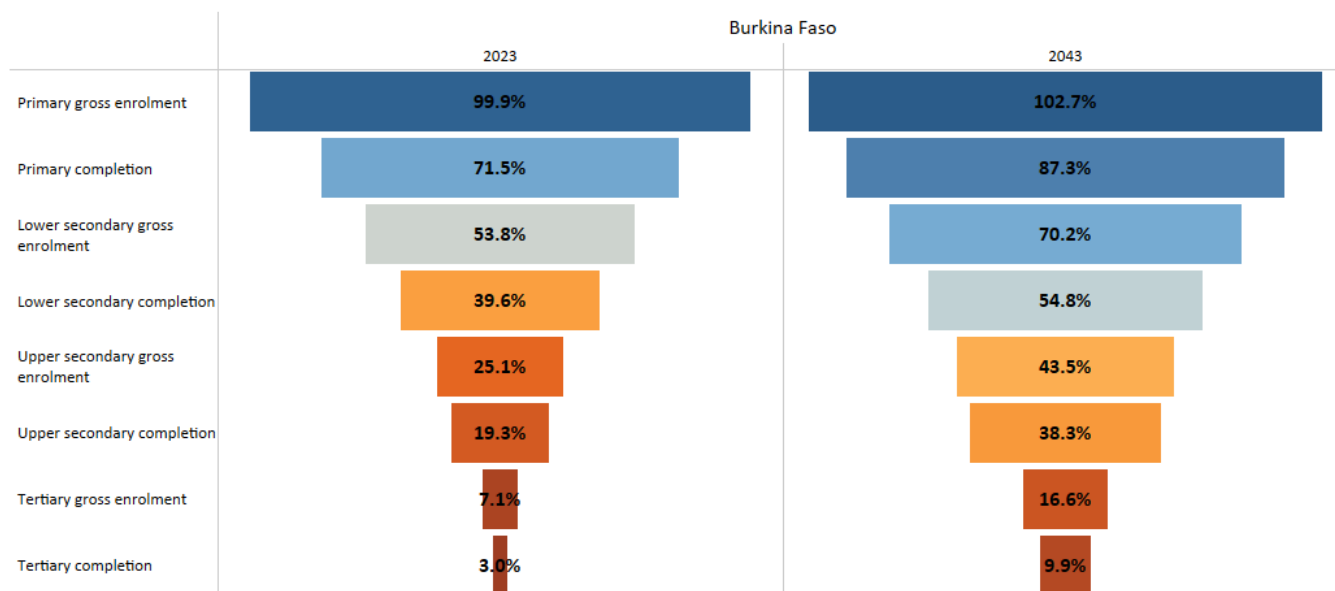
Chart 15 presents the import dependence in the Current Path and the Agriculture scenario, from 2019 to 2043.

The Agriculture scenario will benefit Burkina Faso by increasing yields, reducing vulnerable rain-fed crops through irrigation schemes, reducing post-harvest losses and tapping into the country's agricultural potential. In the Agriculture scenario, average crop yields could increase to 4.1 metric tons per hectare in 2043 compared with 2.6 tons on the Current

Path in the same year. As a result, crop production will be 8.2 million metric tons more by 2043 than in the Current Path. This will result in a lower import dependency of 5.6% and 13% of total demand in 2030 and 2043, respectively, compared with 27.7% in the Current Path and below the average of 34% for low-income Africa in 2043.

Education scenario

Chart 16: Progress through education funnel in the Current Path, 2023-2043



Source: IFS 8.34 initialising from Barro-Lee data

Chart 16 depicts the progress through the educational system in the Current Path, for 2023 and 2043.

The Burkinabé educational system is structured into primary, secondary and higher education. It is generalist in nature, and does not meet the needs of the job market. Despite various reforms, basic education is declining in quality, and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) is weak both in terms of quality and quantity, as well as disorganised, with pronounced regional and gender **disparities** and struggles with access, quality and retention at all levels.

Burkina Faso has one of the lowest literacy rates in Africa. In 2023, the adult literacy rate (population aged 15 years and older) was estimated at 43.6%; the country ranks 47 of 54 countries in Africa. A higher literacy rate is important to improve employment prospects for the poor, and hence, an opportunity to escape from extreme poverty. On the Current Path, the literacy rate in Burkina Faso will likely increase to 54.7% in 2030 and 80% by 2043.

The country has made progress in primary gross enrolment, which stood at 99.8% in 2023, slightly below the average of 108% for Africa's low-income countries. This high percentage, however, reflects the continued presence of over-aged learners at the primary level as the net primary school enrolment was 97% in 2023, reflecting challenges in getting all school-age children into classrooms.

While enrolment has improved, completion rates remain low even though above the average for low-income Africa (65.9% in 2019, the last year of available data), compared with an average of 54.3% for low-income countries.

On the Current Path, primary school completion rate will be 79.4% by 2030, still below the SDG target of 97%. High dropout **rates**, especially among girls, and disparities between urban and rural areas are major concerns.

Because of low completion and transition rates right from the primary level, fewer students are eligible for subsequent

education levels and the resultant outcomes get poorer (Chart 16), which in turn reduces human capital accumulation.

Enrolment rates drop significantly after primary school, with a sharp decline in both lower- and upper-secondary levels. Many students do not transition from primary to secondary education, and those who do often face overcrowded classrooms and insufficient resources. In 2023, gross lower-secondary school enrolment stood at 53.7% while gross upper-secondary school enrolment was only 25%. On the Current Path, gross lower- and upper-secondary school enrolment will likely reach 60.9% and 31.8% in 2030, and 70% and 43.4% in 2043, respectively.

The lower-secondary education completion rate stood at 39.5% in 2023 while the upper-secondary education completion rate was only 19.3%. On the Current Path, lower- and upper-secondary education completion rates will increase but the country will likely miss the SDG target of 97% in 2030 by a substantial margin. Indeed, lower- and upper-secondary school completion rates will likely reach 44.4% and 26.2% in 2030, and 54.77% and 38.3% in 2043, respectively.

At the tertiary level, universities and other higher education institutions offer undergraduate, graduate and vocational programs. The Université Ouaga I Pr Joseph Ki-Zerbo, located in the capital Ouagadougou, is one of the largest and most prominent institutions in the country. The higher education sector faces issues related to limited capacity, outdated curricula and inadequate infrastructure. The gross tertiary enrolment rate was just 7.1% in 2023, above the average of 8.7% for low income Africa. On the Current Path, it could get to 16.6% in 2043.

While Burkina Faso has made progress in closing the gender gap, significant disparities remain. Girls are less likely than boys to attend school, and the dropout rate for girls is higher, particularly in rural areas. Early marriage, pregnancy and discriminatory social norms contribute to lower education attainment among girls. For instance, the parity ratio at the tertiary level stood at 0.64 in 2023 (1 is full parity). Also, the upper-secondary education gross enrolment rate parity ratio (female/male) is forecast to be 0.85 in 2030 (below the SDG target of 1) and 0.94 in 2043.

Although the country has made some progress in getting more children into school, the quality of education they receive is poor. This remains one of the major challenges facing the education system. Similar to many other African countries, Burkina Faso is facing a learning crisis. Learning poverty, defined as the share of children not able to read and understand an age-appropriate text by age 10, is estimated by the World Bank, UNESCO, and other organisations at 74% in Burkina Faso. It is imperative to improve the quality of the education provided in schools.

Overall, Burkina Faso has made progress in improving access to education, particularly at the primary level, however significant challenges remain in ensuring quality, reducing dropout rates, and expanding access to secondary and higher education. Efforts to address gender disparities, improve infrastructure and enhance teacher training will be critical for the future development of the country's education system.

The Education scenario represents reasonable but ambitious improved intake, transition and graduation rates from primary to tertiary levels, with a particular focus on both lower- and upper-secondary levels and better quality of education. It also models substantive progress towards gender parity at all levels, additional vocational training at the secondary school level and increases in the share of science and engineering graduates.

Visit the theme on [Education](#) for our conceptualisation and details on the scenario structure and interventions.

Chart 17: Mean years of education in the Current Path and Education scenario, 2020-2043
15 to 24 year age group

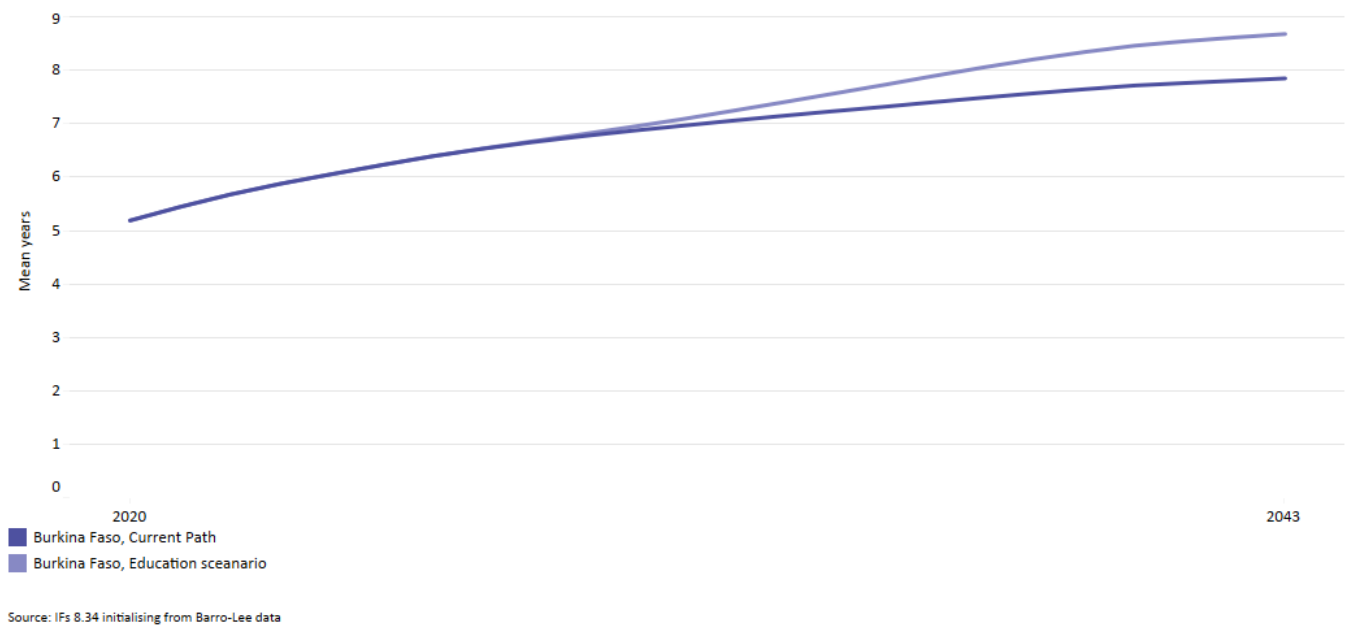


Chart 17 presents the mean years of education in the Current Path and in the Education scenario, from 2019 to 2043, for the 15 to 24 age group.

The average years of education in the adult population aged 15 to 24 is a good first indicator of the stock of human capital in a country but Burkina has one of the lowest in Africa, at 5.8 years in 2023. The country ranked 38th in Africa (out of 54). The implementation of the Education scenario would improve the mean years of education for adults aged 15 to 24 in the country to about 7 years in 2030 and 8.6 years by 2043 compared with 6.8 years in 2030 and 7.8 years in 2043 in the Current Path (Chart 17).

Low-skilled and poorly educated workers make up most of the labour force in Burkina Faso. Due to the low economic complexity, the labour market tends to require more unskilled labour but over time, as the economic complexity increases, there will be a growing demand for more skilled labour, particularly in the formal sector. Given the current weak education system, the country is ill-prepared to produce relevant skills for the job market, which could hamper competitiveness and productivity.

The Education scenario could contribute to addressing these challenges. In this scenario the share of science and engineering students in tertiary graduates in Burkina Faso will increase to 20.4% by 2043, five percentage points higher than the 15.4 % projected on the Current Path in 2043.

While Burkina Faso faces significant educational challenges, particularly in terms of low average years of schooling and a predominance of low-skilled workers, targeted improvements in the education sector could foster substantial progress. By enhancing the quality and relevance of education through increased support for science, engineering and vocational training, the achievement of the outcomes modelled in the Education scenario would equip the country with a more skilled labour force by 2043. Improved education outcomes would also support broader socio-economic growth, enabling the country to take advantage of future opportunities in the regional and global labour markets.

Manufacturing scenario

Chart 18: Value-add by sector as % of GDP in the Current Path, 2020-2043

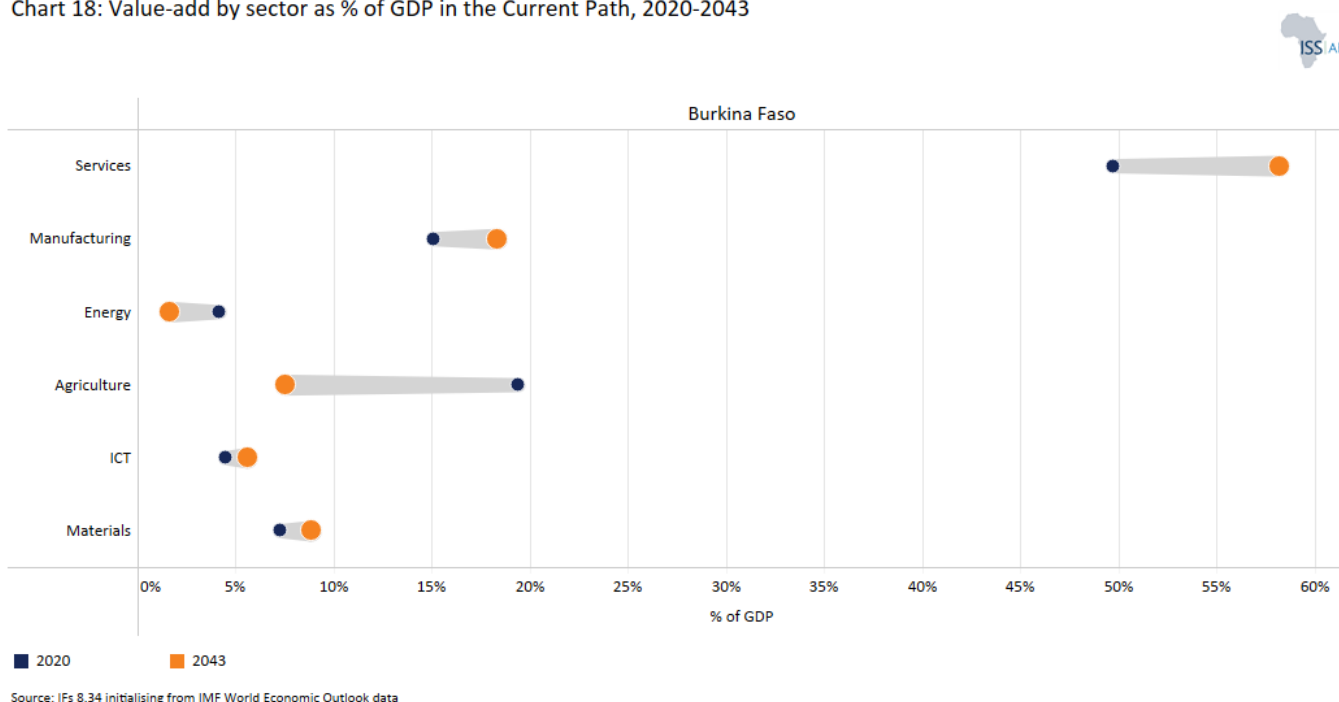


Chart 18 presents the value-add by sector as share of GDP in the Current Path, for 2023 and 2043.

The economy of Burkina Faso depends heavily on agriculture, particularly livestock farming, and the exploitation of mineral resources.

Agro-processing is the most prominent part of Burkina Faso's small manufacturing sector, and it includes the transformation of agricultural products like cotton, grains, fruits and nuts. Cotton processing is particularly important, as Burkina Faso is one of Africa's largest cotton producers. Other agro-processing activities include the production of flour, edible oils, sugar, beverages and dairy products.

The textile industry, linked to the cotton sector, includes activities such as spinning, weaving and garment production. However, the industry has not fully capitalised on Burkina Faso's strong cotton production due to infrastructure and technological constraints.

The production of cement, bricks and other construction materials is an important part of the manufacturing sector. This is largely driven by domestic demand from the construction and infrastructure industries.

Several small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are also involved in the production of packaged foods, drinks (such as beer and soft drinks), and processed food items. This sub-sector is growing as urbanisation and a rising middle class create higher demand for consumer goods.

The country also has a modest pharmaceutical industry that produces medicines for domestic consumption. There are also companies involved in producing soaps, detergents and basic chemical products.

Burkina Faso, like many African nations, has been de-industrialising while still poor (premature de-industrialisation), raising the worrying prospect that it could miss out on the chance to increase incomes by shifting workers from subsistence farming to higher-paying factory jobs.

The contribution of the manufacturing sector to GDP has been declining from its peak of 19% in 1973 to 10% in 2019 and about 9.6% in 2022 (the latest available data), on par with the average of 9.4% for low-income Africa. Burkina Faso is currently one of the least-industrialised countries in Africa. In 2022, it ranked 36 of 52 countries on the African Development Bank's African [Industrialisation Index](#), which measures African progress on industrialisation. On the Current Path, the share of the manufacturing sector in Burkina Faso's GDP will likely be 16% in 2030 and 18% by 2043, above the projected average of 16% for low-income Africa (Chart 18).

The manufacturing sector faces significant challenges. One is the lack of adequate infrastructure, particularly in energy and transportation. Frequent power outages and expensive electricity make manufacturing costs high, limiting competitiveness. Also, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which form the backbone of the manufacturing sector, often struggle with limited access to affordable financing. Banks in Burkina Faso tend to have high lending rates, and there is limited venture capital for industrial investment.

Manufacturing firms in Burkina Faso generally operate with outdated technologies and lack the advanced machinery needed for efficient production. Additionally, there is a shortage of skilled labour and technical expertise, which hinders productivity and innovation.

Ongoing political instability and security threats from terrorism have also deterred both domestic and foreign investment in the manufacturing sector. Uncertainty reduces long-term planning and investment in industrial projects. In sum, though there have been great strides in improving the regulatory environment for doing business in Burkina Faso, an unskilled and uneducated workforce, poor transportation infrastructure, periodic shortages of water and electricity, high energy costs, a deteriorating security environment, and a weak judicial system are still undermining growth of the [manufacturing sector](#) in Burkina Faso.

Like in other African countries, many impoverished individuals in Burkina Faso find themselves trapped in subsistence agriculture and informal service-based activities. Boosting the manufacturing sector will generate inclusive growth by facilitating the transition of low-income individuals from these sectors to higher-productivity areas. This structural shift not only boosts incomes but fosters a positive cycle wherein the growth of productive employment, capacities and earnings mutually reinforce one another, propelling economic expansion and poverty reduction.

The Manufacturing scenario models the impact of a manufacturing push in Burkina Faso. A reasonable but ambitious growth in manufacturing is envisaged through increased investment in the sector, research and development (R&D), and improved government regulation of businesses. This aims to enhance labour intensive manufacturing to create more jobs, particularly among females.

Visit the theme on [Manufacturing](#) for our conceptualisation and details on the scenario structure and interventions.

Chart 19: Value-add by the manufacturing sector in the Current Path and Manufacturing scenario, 2020-2043

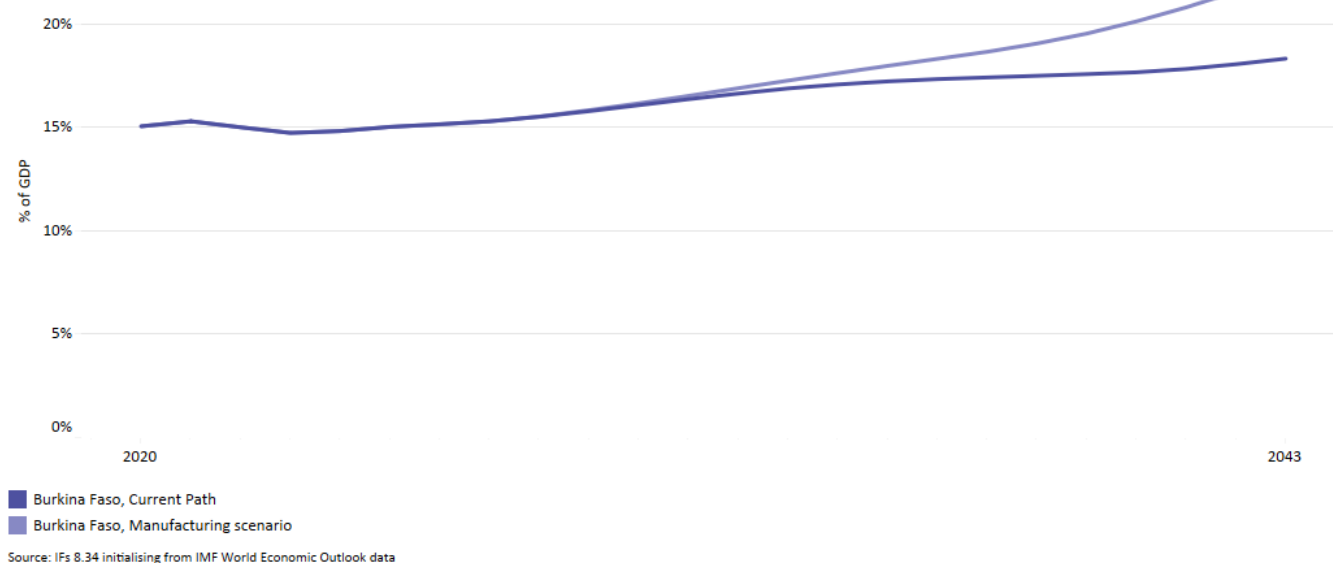


Chart 19 presents the contribution of the manufacturing sector to GDP in the Current Path and in the Manufacturing scenario, from 2019 to 2023. The data is in US\$ and % of GDP.

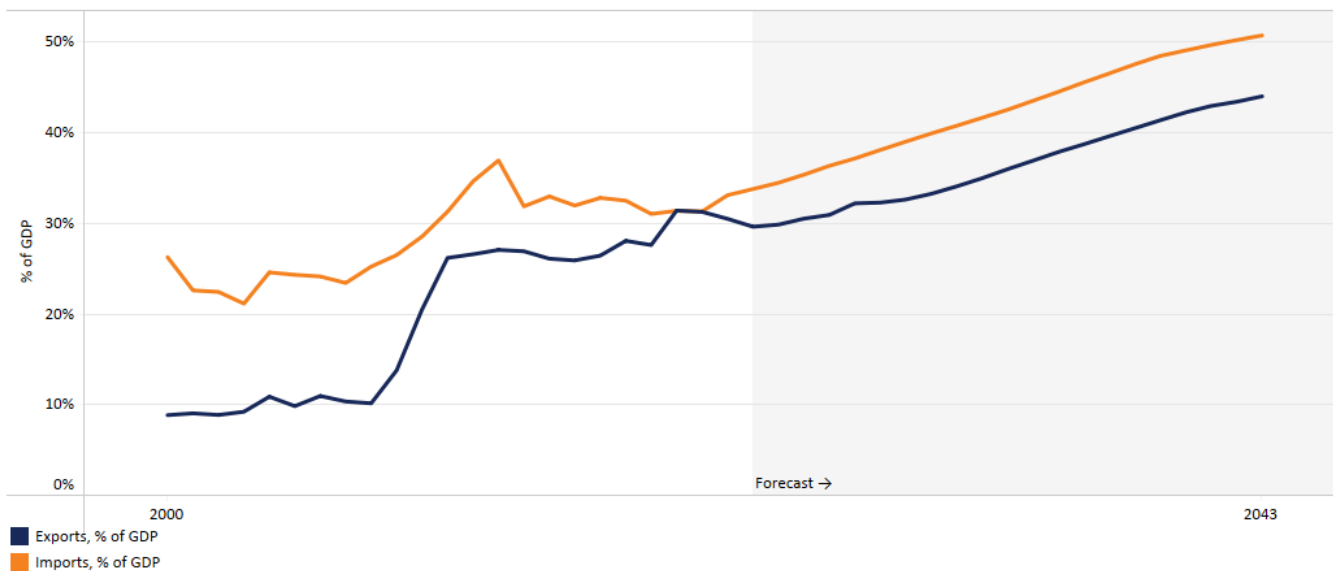
The manufacturing sector in Burkina Faso is still in its early stages of development, but it holds potential as a driver of economic diversification and job creation. Key areas for growth include agro-processing, textiles and renewable energy integration. Addressing challenges related to infrastructure, finance and skills development will be crucial for unlocking the sector’s full potential and making Burkina Faso more competitive in regional and global markets.

On the Current Path, the share of the manufacturing sector in Burkina Faso’s GDP will likely increase to 16% in 2030 and 18.3% by 2043, above the projected average of 16.2% for low-income Africa in 2043. The implementation of the Manufacturing scenario could further push the share of the manufacturing sector in GDP to 16.2% in 2030 and 22.4% by 2043 (Chart 19), above the projected average of 16.2% for low-income Africa in 2043.

However, industrialisation is a long-term process. It requires constructive relationships between the state that encourages and supports the private sector. Firms need a state that has strong capabilities in setting an overall economic vision and strategy, efficiently providing supportive infrastructure and services, maintaining a regulatory environment conducive to entrepreneurial activity, and making it easier to acquire skilled labour and new technology and enter new economic activities and markets.

AfCFTA scenario

Chart 20: Export and imports as % of GDP in the Current Path, 2000-2043



Source: IFS 8.34 initialising from WDI data

Chart 20 depicts exports and imports as a percentage of GDP, from 2000 to 2043, in the Current Path and in the AfCFTA scenario.

Burkina Faso has an economy largely dependent on cotton and gold exports making it vulnerable to terms-of-trade shocks, which can have an outsized impact on its impoverished population.

The trade pattern of Burkina Faso is similar to that of many other African countries that rely on a few key commodity exports while importing higher-value manufactured goods, consumer items and foodstuffs.

Burkina Faso's **top exports** are gold and raw cotton. In 2022, gold accounted for 82.2% of Burkina Faso's total export value, while raw cotton accounted for 6.12%. Other exports are Oily Seeds (2.06%), Coconuts, Brazil Nuts, Cashews (2.05%) and Zinc Ore (1.97%). The most common destinations for the exports of Burkina Faso are Switzerland (74.2% of total exports in 2022), United Arab Emirates (6.56%), Mali (3.71%), Singapore (2.11%) and Côte d'Ivoire (2.09%). On the Current Path, total export value will be equivalent to 29.5% of GDP in 2030 and 38.8% of GDP by 2043.

Burkina Faso's **top imports** are Refined Petroleum (22.6%), Electricity (3.14%), Packaged Medicaments (3.1%), Petroleum Gas (2.38%) and Cement (2.35%). The most common import partners for Burkina Faso are Côte d'Ivoire (16% of Burkina's total imports), China (11%), Russia (7.41%), France (7.28%) and Ghana (5.41%).

Outside of ECOWAS and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), Burkina Faso has limited trade with other non-member African countries. Intra-Africa trade exports (imports) remain very low at **11% (9%)** which is less than the continental average of 18%.

In 2023, the total import value was estimated at 33.8% of GDP while the total export represented 29.6%, leading to a trade deficit equivalent to 4% of GDP. On the Current Path, the value of imports is expected to continue to remain above

Burkina's exports reaching 39.9% in 2030. By 2043, Burkina's import value will represent 50.7% of GDP against 44% for its exports in the same year (Chart 20).

The AfCFTA scenario models the impact of fully implementing the African Continental Free Trade Agreement by 2034. The scenario increases exports in manufacturing, agriculture, services, ICT, materials and energy exports. It also includes improved multifactor productivity growth from trade and reduced tariffs for all sectors.

Visit the theme on [AfCFTA](#) for our conceptualisation and details on the scenario structure and interventions.

Chart 21: Trade balance in the Current Path and AfCFTA scenario, 2020-2043

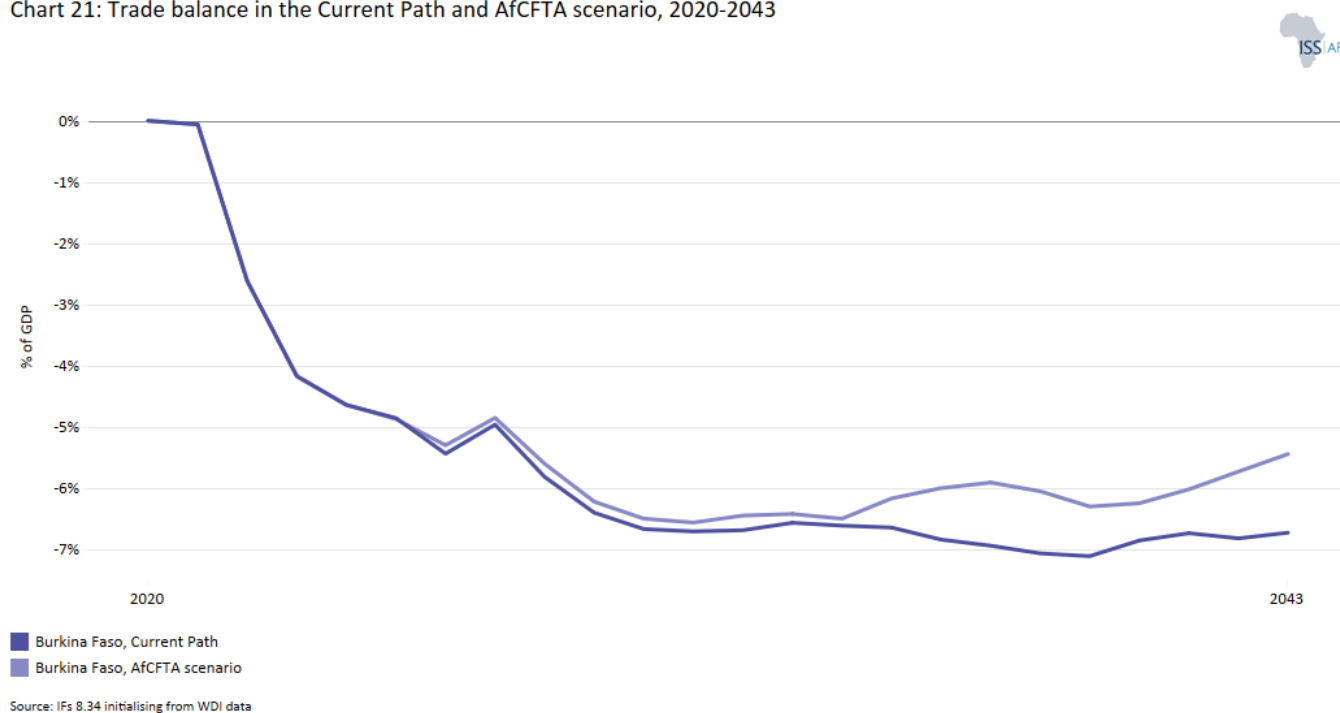


Chart 21 presents the trade balance in the Current Path and in the AfCFTA scenario, from 2019 to 2043 as a percentage of GDP.

Burkina Faso's trade balance is structurally in deficit— a trend which is likely to persist over the forecast horizon. On the Current Path, the trade deficit will worsen reaching 6.6% of GDP in 2030 and 6.7% in 2043.

In the AfCFTA scenario, where trade restrictions are loosened and productivity is increased through competition and technology diffusion, Burkina Faso would not record a trade surplus by becoming a net exporter; however, its trade deficit could improve from a projected deficit equivalent to -6.7% of GDP in the baseline scenario (Current Path) by 2043 to -5.4% of GDP.

The AfCFTA represents a major opportunity for African countries, including Burkina Faso, to overcome the constraints of narrow domestic markets to boost exports. The full implementation of the AfCFTA will also enable the country to avoid high tariffs on its exports to ECOWAS countries if its withdrawal from the regional bloc is finalised.

Large Infrastructure and Leapfrogging scenario

Chart 22: Electricity access: urban, rural and total in the Current Path, 2000-2043

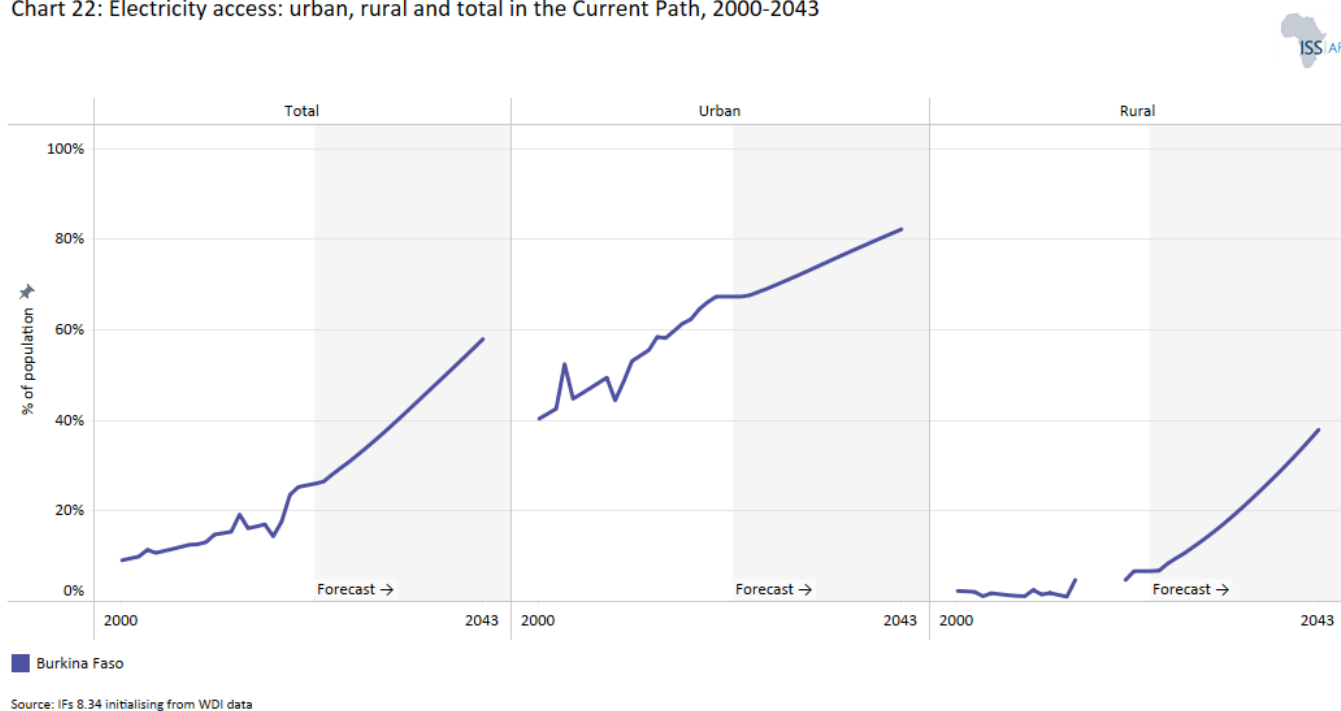


Chart 22 presents the Current Path of access to electricity for urban, rural and the total population from 2000 to 2043.

Burkina Faso faces significant infrastructure challenges that have hindered its economic development and growth. The country, like many in West Africa, has been constrained by insufficient infrastructure in key sectors such as transportation, energy, telecommunications and water supply.

In 2024, Burkina Faso ranked 29 out of 54 African countries on the African Infrastructure Development Index (AIDI) produced by the African Development Bank. Poor infrastructure coverage and low quality in Burkina Faso increase transaction costs and lower the return on capital and work, discouraging domestic and foreign investment and constraining economic growth.

Burkina Faso imports nearly 70% of its electricity from neighbouring Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire and faces unreliable and expensive electricity access. As of 2021, only 18.9% of the country's total population had access to electricity compared to about 37% for the average for low-income Africa. Access to electricity for rural populations is woefully low at 6.6% in 2021 compared with 67.6% in urban areas. Most rural communities rely on biomass (wood and charcoal) for their energy needs.

Even for those connected to the power grid, supply is often unreliable. This increases operational costs for industries and hampers manufacturing, which is already constrained by other infrastructure challenges.

Solar and wind energy offer Burkina Faso a pathway to expand energy access, reduce reliance on imported energy, and enable economic growth. Solar power is particularly advantageous for remote areas without access to the national grid. With abundant solar resources—averaging around 2 800 hours of sunshine and 5.5 kWh/m² of solar irradiance daily—Burkina Faso has the potential to develop up to 95.9 gigawatts (GW) of solar capacity. The country has already

initiated projects like the Zagtouli solar power plant, the largest in the Sahel, and aims to source 30% of its electricity from solar by 2030. Additionally, Burkina Faso could harness up to 1.96 GW of wind energy, with numerous regions identified as suitable for wind power development.

On the Current Path, the national electricity access rate will improve to 35% in 2030 (still below the SDG target of 98%) and about 58% by 2043, with 37.9% in rural areas and 82.2% in urban areas (Chart 22).

The road network in Burkina Faso is also underdeveloped, with many rural areas poorly connected to urban centers. Only a small percentage (26% in 2023) of roads are paved, and those that are paved often suffer from poor maintenance. This limits the movement of goods and people and increases the cost of transportation. During the rainy season, many unpaved roads become impassable, further isolating rural communities and affecting the transportation of agricultural products to markets. On the Current Path, 33% and 48% of the total road network will likely be paved by 2030 and 2043, respectively.

Limited access to and poor quality of digital connectivity also limits Burkina Faso's growth potential. The mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 people were at about 61 in 2021, against an average of 27 for low-income Africa. On the Current Path, it will be 143.7 in 2030 and 154 by 2043.

Fixed broadband provides faster internet access speeds with more secure connections and is important for higher value-add service sectors. However, fixed broadband penetration in Burkina Faso is strikingly low, with a subscription rate of 0.07 per 100 people, below the average of 0.2 for African low-income. On the Current Path, fixed broadband subscriptions will be 4 and 16 per 100 people by 2030 and 2043, respectively.

In sum, the infrastructure deficit, especially poor access to electricity and the lack of a good road network are cited as some of the most significant obstacles to expanding the small private sector in the country. The Large Infrastructure and Leapfrogging scenario, therefore, addresses these issues. It involves ambitious investments in road and renewable energy infrastructure, improved electricity access and accelerated broadband connectivity. It emphasises adopting modern technologies to enhance government efficiency and the rapid formalisation of the informal sector, incorporating significant investments in major infrastructure projects like rail, ports, and airports while highlighting the positive impacts of renewables and ICT.

The interventions in the scenario bring the national access to electricity rate to 39% in 2030 and 74% in 2043 compared with 33.8% and 57.9% on the Current Path in 2030 and 2043, respectively. The share of paved roads in the total road network is 36% in 2030 and 57.8% in 2043 compared with 32.9% and 48% on the Current Path in 2030 and 2043, respectively. Fixed broadband subscriptions will be 4.8 and 24 per 100 people by 2030 and 2043, respectively compared with 4 and 16 per 100 people in the Current Path forecast.

Visit the themes on [Large Infrastructure](#) and [Leapfrogging](#) for our conceptualisation and details on the scenario structure and interventions.

Chart 23: Cookstove usage in the Current Path and Large Infra/Leapfrogging scenario, 2020-2043

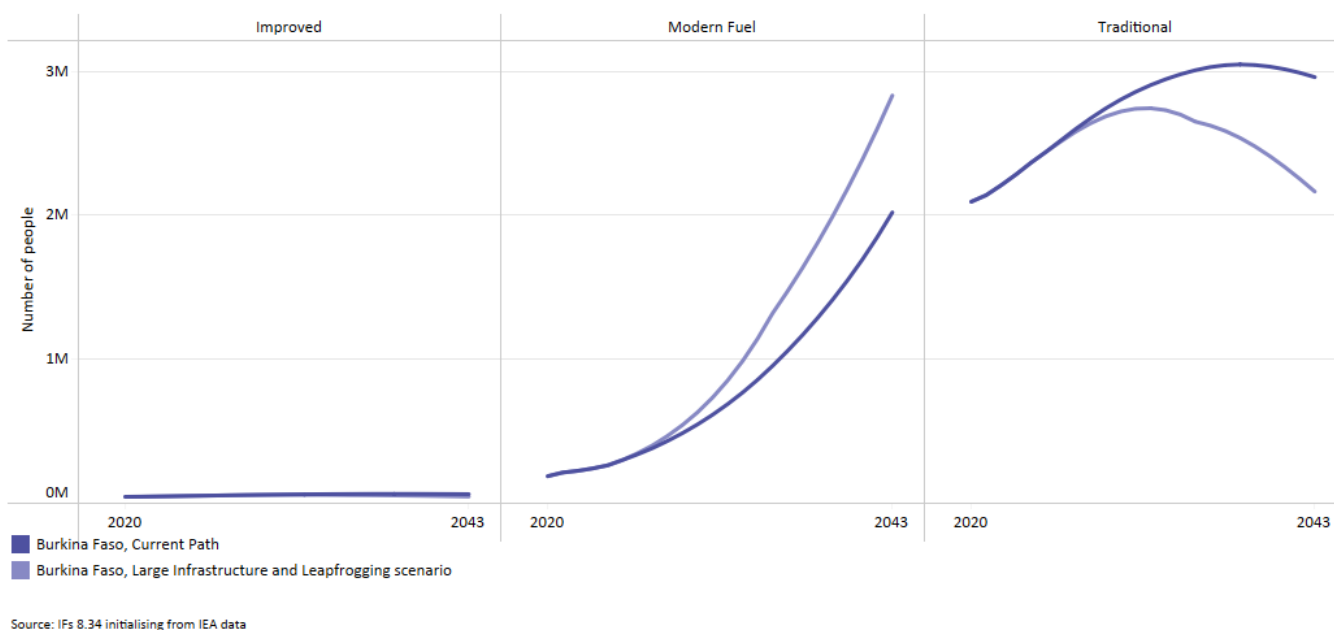


Chart 23 presents the number of people using cookstoves in the Current Path and in the Large Infrastructure and Leapfrogging scenario, from 2019 to 2043.

Due to limited electricity access, especially in rural areas, the bulk (81%) of Burkinabe households rely on inefficient energy sources for cooking such as firewood and charcoal (used in traditional cookstoves). In rural areas, nearly all energy consumption is biomass-based.

As a result, the national average firewood consumption stands at 0.69 kg per person per day. This poses a risk to the environment with the acceleration of deforestation and affects the health of infants and children by causing respiratory problems. Also, the daily collection of firewood (unpaid domestic work), which involves more women and young girls, limits their time for paid work and reduces study hours for girls, depriving them of opportunities to focus on education.

In the Large Infrastructure and Leapfrogging scenario, the percentage of households that use traditional cookstoves would decline from 88.7% in 2023 to 79.7% in 2030 and about 43% in 2043 compared to 58.7% in the Current Path for 2043.

The share of households using modern fuel cookstoves is 56% by 2043 in the Large Infrastructure and Leapfrogging scenario, compared to the Current Path of 40% in the same year. These findings imply that increasing access to modern energy, including electricity and off-grid renewable solutions, particularly in rural areas, can play a key role in reducing carbon emissions and mitigating climate change. By transitioning households from traditional cooking methods to modern alternatives, these measures lower emissions and reduce the burden of unpaid domestic work for women and girls. This shift can free up valuable time, enabling them to engage in paid work and study as well as leisure and personal care. For instance, rural electrification led to a 9% increase in female labour force participation through a reduction in the time women spent on housework in South Africa.

Chart 24: Access to mobile and fixed broadband in the Current Path and Large Infra/Leapfrogging scenario, 2020-2043

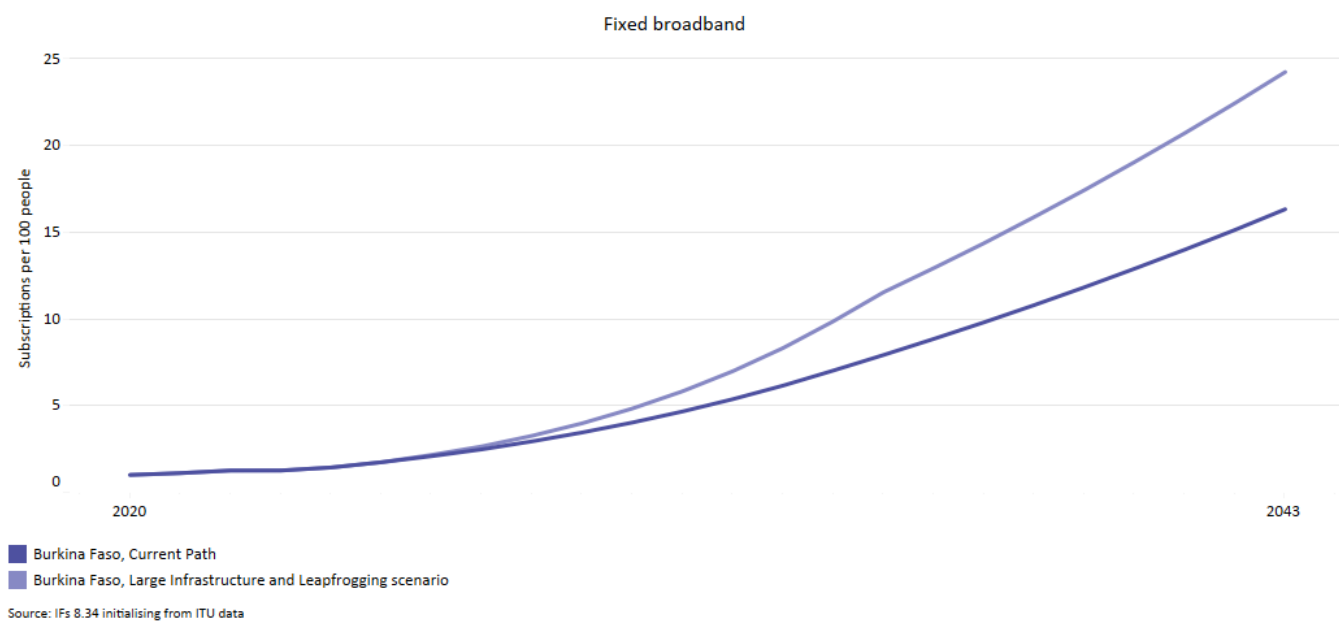


Chart 24 presents the percentage of the population and number of people with access to mobile and fixed broadband in the Current Path and in the Large Infrastructure and Leapfrogging scenario, from 2019 to 2043. The user can toggle between mobile and fixed broadband.

The mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 people will be 154.4 by 2043 in the Large Infrastructure and Leapfrogging scenario. Because the mobile broadband subscriptions are already approaching saturation levels on the Current Path, the intervention does not improve mobile broadband subscriptions above the Current Path.

In the Large Infrastructure and Leapfrogging scenario, fixed broadband subscriptions will reach 4.8 and 24 per 100 people by 2030 and 2043, respectively, compared with 16.3 in the Current Path for 2043.

Financial Flows scenario

Chart 25: FDI, foreign aid and remittances as % of GDP in the Current Path, 1990-2043

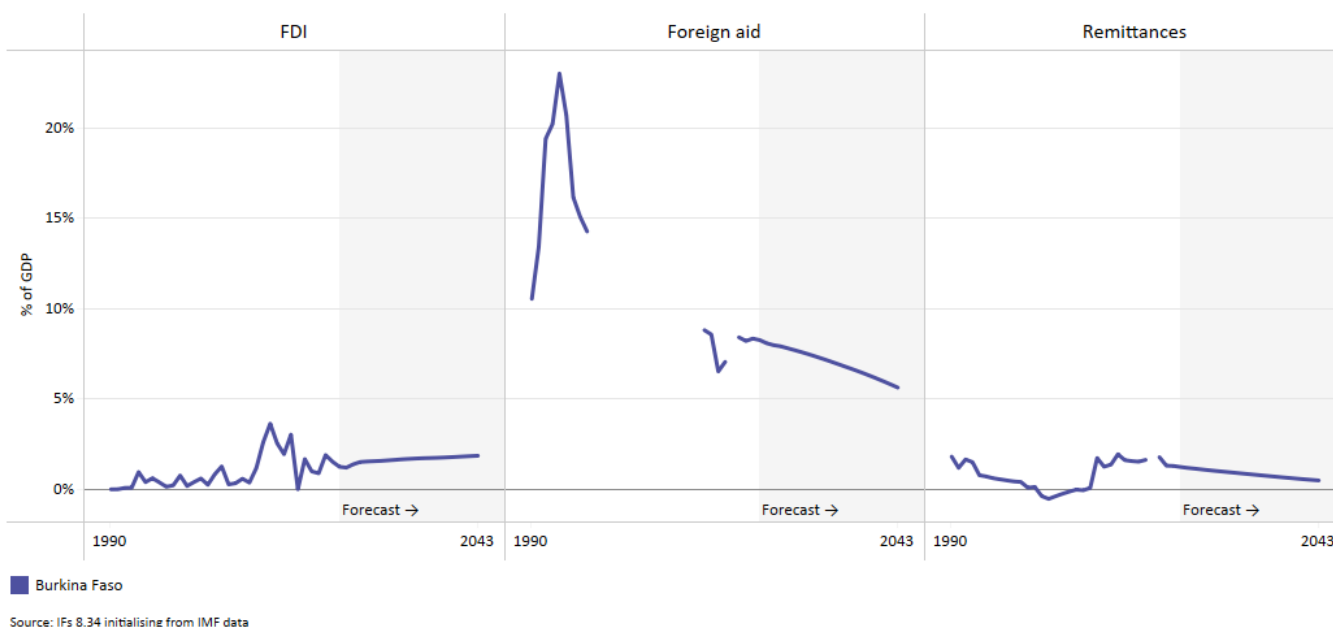


Chart 25 presents the trends in FDI, aid and remittances in the Current Path and in the Financial Flows scenario as a percentage of GDP, from 1990 to 2043.

Burkina Faso is not an important destination of international capital flows in Africa even though foreign aid plays a significant role in the country's economic and social development, given its limited financial resources and high levels of poverty. Aid from international donors and development partners is crucial in supporting sectors such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, governance and security. Grants—non-repayable funds from international organisations, and development partners to support specific projects, programs or general budget needs—represented the largest share of non-tax revenues in Burkina Faso in 2021, amounting to 2.5% of GDP and 57% of non-tax revenues.

Development partners have traditionally supported Burkina Faso in addressing key development challenges, including strengthening agricultural markets and production, improving maternal and child health, adapting to climate change, enhancing governance and human rights, reducing malaria rates and responding to complex crises.

For instance, in 2021, USAID allocated over US\$5.5 million toward agriculture and food security, targeting vulnerable communities, with a focus on women and youth. In 2024, the EU allocated €45 million for humanitarian aid in the country, a slight increase compared with €44 million in 2023. These funds support actions on (i) food insecurity and malnutrition, (ii) protection, (iii) health, (iv) nutrition, (v) shelter, (vi) water, sanitation and hygiene, (vii) education, (viii) disaster preparedness activities, and (ix) a rapid response to displacements.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid (OCHA) humanitarian response plan was allocated US\$316.1 million in 2020 compared to only US\$148 million in 2024 – only 16 percent of Burkina Faso's growing humanitarian aid needs.

Foreign aid represented about 8% of GDP in 2023. On the Current Path, aid flows to Burkina Faso as a percentage of GDP

will likely decline to reach 7.5% of GDP in 2030 and 5.6% in 2043 (see Chart 25).

In addition to aid, Burkina Faso actively welcomes foreign investment and seeks to attract international partners to support its development. The country has **made partial progress** in establishing the legal and regulatory framework needed to ensure fair treatment of foreign investors, including creating mechanisms for resolving commercial disputes and simplifying the processes for obtaining permits and registering businesses.

Gold mining has experienced significant growth over the past decade, with major companies from Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, South Africa and Russia active in the sector. Moroccan, French and UAE firms control local subsidiaries in the telecommunications industry, while foreign investors are also active in banking, financial technology, agriculture, transport, logistics, energy and telecommunications. Interest in the security sector from foreign investors is also **increasing**.

In 2018, the parliament passed a new investment code offering numerous benefits to foreign investors, including tax breaks and incentives such as exemptions from value-added tax (VAT) on certain equipment. Although effective tax rates are lower than the regional average, the tax system is complex, and compliance remains **challenging**.

As of 2023, foreign direct investment (FDI) flows to Burkina Faso accounted for 1.2% of GDP. On the current trajectory, they will increase to approximately 1.6% of GDP by 2030 and 1.8% by 2043 (Chart 25). However, this optimistic outlook depends heavily on achieving greater political stability and significant improvements in security.

FDI flows to Burkina Faso are constrained by a range of economic, political and social challenges. The country faces significant security threats from insurgent violence and terrorism, which disrupt economic activities and pose direct risks to investments, particularly in the mining sector. Additionally, Burkina Faso's shift away from traditional Western alliances in favour of closer ties with nations like Russia may impact existing investments and influence future investor decisions, given the geopolitical implications.

Many Burkina Faso citizens who live abroad also send money back home (remittances). Remittances are a crucial lifeline for many households in Burkina Faso and neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire is one of the main sources. They ease the financial constraint of recipients, enhance their ability to avoid poverty and hunger, and promote gender equity in education.

In 2018 (latest available data), remittances represented 1.6% of GDP, and, on the Current Path, will decline to about 0.9% in 2030 and 0.5% of GDP by 2043.

In addition to their contribution to poverty reduction and human development, remittances tend to be less volatile to economic downturns than FDI and Portfolio Investment, and hence may help mitigate balance of payment difficulties if encouraged and facilitated.

An increase in foreign financial flows can bring considerable economic benefits to Burkina Faso and reduce its persistent balance of payment difficulties. However, as Western countries and international institutions often condition aid and investment on political stability, democratic governance and adherence to international norms, without meaningful political reforms or assurances of stability, the resumption of substantial Western aid and FDI inflows is unlikely.

However, non-Western countries, particularly those with strategic or economic interests in the region, might still consider investing or providing aid. Nations such as China, Russia and some Gulf states have shown a tendency to engage in regions with political instability, often prioritising resource access, geopolitical influence, or strategic partnerships over governance concerns. For instance, China has historically maintained a non-interventionist approach to politics and may seek opportunities in infrastructure, mining (especially gold), or energy sectors in Burkina Faso. Russia has expanded its

presence in Africa, particularly through security partnerships and mining investments. Companies and organisations with ties to Russia, such as Wagner Group affiliates, could pursue opportunities despite the political climate.

The Financial Flows scenario is a positive scenario which represents a reasonable but ambitious increase in inward flows of worker remittances, aid to poor countries and an increase in the stock of foreign direct investment (FDI) and additional portfolio investment inflows. We reduce outward financial flows to emulate a reduction in illicit financial outflows. The scenario is premised on a return to constitutionalism which is very likely a precondition for aid and FDI from Western countries.

Visit the theme on [Financial Flows](#) for our conceptualisation and details on the scenario structure and interventions.

Chart 26: Government revenue in the Current Path and Financial Flows scenario, 2020-2043

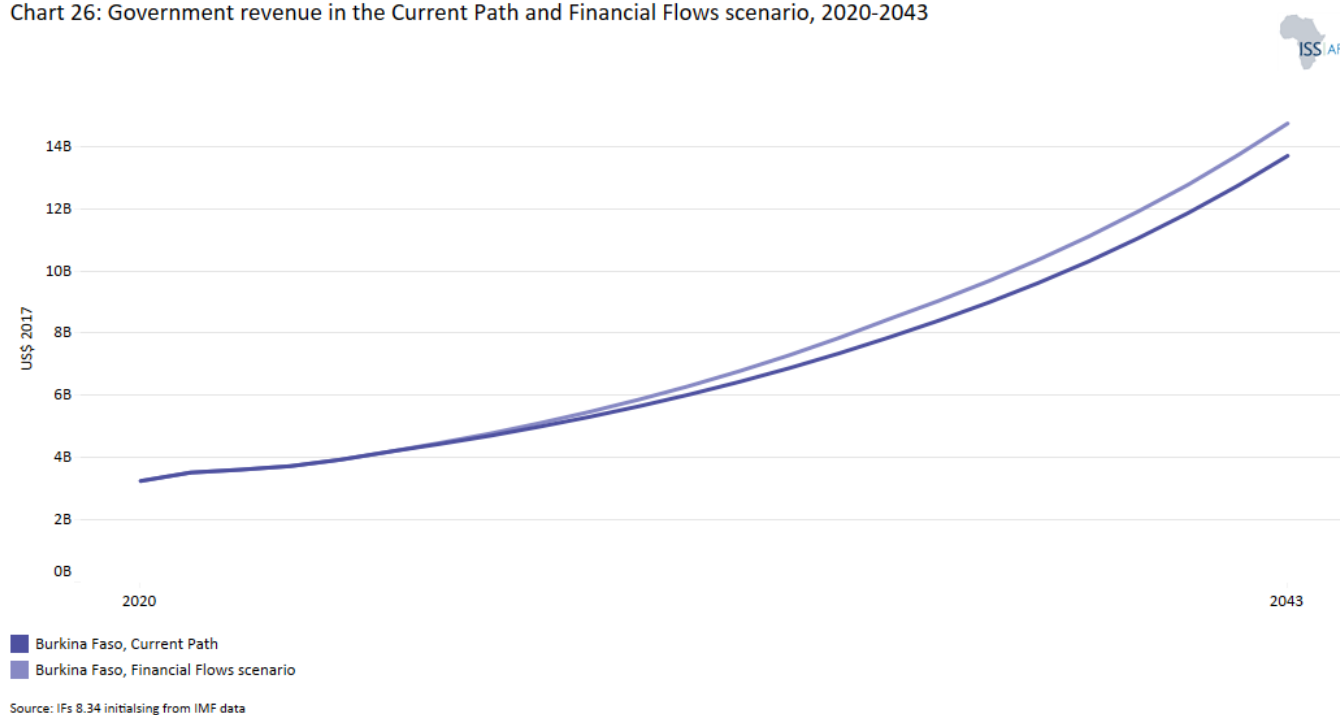


Chart 26 presents government revenue in the Current Path and in the Financial Flows scenario, from 2019 to 2043. The data is in US\$ 2017 and % of GDP.

In the Financial Flows scenario, FDI flows to Burkina Faso is equivalent to 2.2% of GDP in 2030 and 2.8% of GDP in 2043, below the projected average of 4.6% of GDP for low-income countries in Africa in 2043, and about one percentage point above the Current Path in 2043.

In this scenario, foreign aid will represent about 6.6% of GDP in 2043, compared with 5.6% of GDP in the Current Path for the same year. Remittances will represent 0.8% of GDP in 2043 compared with 0.5% of GDP in the Current Path for the same year.

In the scenario, government revenues increase to 24.7% of GDP by 2043, up from 20% in 2023. This is 1.14 percentage points of GDP above the Current Path in 2043, equivalent to US\$1.06 billion. Several pathways explain the positive association between capital inflows and government revenue. The first is direct because more aid means more revenue for the government to provide public services. Another is indirect: higher inflows are associated with higher tax revenues because foreign investors tend to have good tax compliance habits and/or are subject to higher natural resource taxes. Also, higher inflows is associated with higher economic growth and, therefore, higher government revenues.

Assuming a suspension of development aid to Burkina Faso over the next five years (2025 to 2030), with aid resuming thereafter premised on a return to constitutionalism, the size of the economy would be US\$188 million smaller in 2030 and US\$301 million smaller in 2043. The number of people living in extreme poverty would rise by 76 000 in 2043 compared to the Current Path forecast. The GDP per capita would decrease by approximately US\$12 by 2030 and US\$13 by 2043 compared to the business-as-usual scenario (Current Path). Cutting aid could therefore deepen underdevelopment in Burkina Faso.

Governance scenario

Chart 27: Government Effectiveness score in the Current Path, 2002-2043

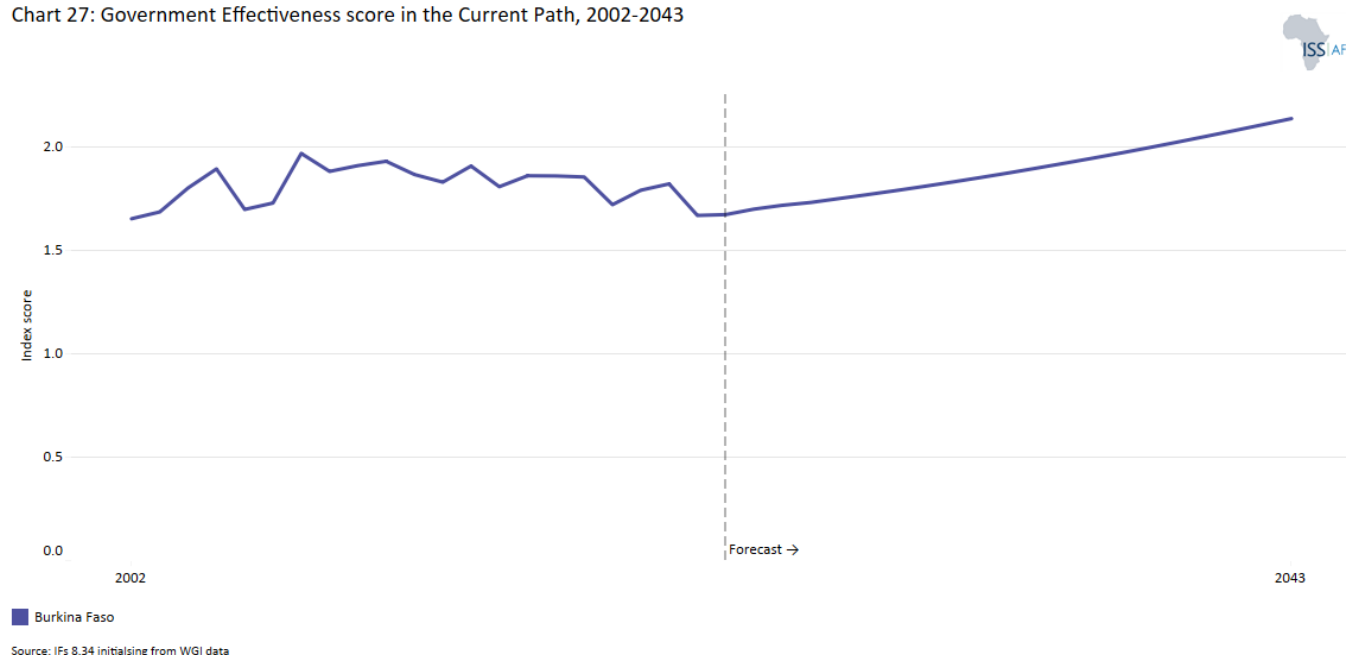


Chart 27 presents the Current Path of government effectiveness comparing the country to the average for the Africa income group, from 2002 to 2043.

Good governance is key to economic progress. Greater security and stability at the national level creates an enabling environment for domestic and foreign investment. It also creates conditions in which governments can pursue effective sustainable development strategies.

In our modelling, governance is conceptualised along three dimensions – security, capacity and inclusion – reflecting the traditional sequencing of the state formation process. The score for each dimension of governance ranges from zero (bad) to one (good). The security dimension measures the probability of intra-state conflict and the general level of risk. The second dimension, capacity, is related to government revenue, corruption, regulatory quality, economic freedom and government effectiveness. The third dimension, inclusiveness, measures the level of democracy and gender empowerment.

Key governance challenges in Burkina Faso include political instability, insecurity and extremism, and weak institutions. The country has experienced multiple coups, with the most recent ones in 2022, generally considered to be driven by dissatisfaction with government leadership and perceived bad governance, security issues, or public discontent given high levels of multidimensional poverty. This political instability disrupts governance processes and creates uncertainty in leadership. The country also faces a growing security threat from violent extremist groups, particularly in its northern and eastern regions. Groups linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State that operate in the Sahel contribute to violence and displacement of populations. The insecurity has undermined the state's authority and ability to deliver services. The spread of Islamist terrorism has resulted in the loss of approximately 40% of national territory and limited access to public services. Thousands of schools and health facilities have been closed, disproportionately affecting access to these services.

With a score of 51.0 out of 100 - where 100 indicates the full provision of political, social and economic public goods and services that a citizen expects from his/her government and the state has responsibility to deliver to its citizens - Burkina

Faso ranked 24th of 54 African countries on the [2023 Ibrahim Index of African Governance \(IIAG\)](#), an improvement from the 18th rank it recorded in previous years. Burkina Faso's score is above the African average (49.3) and the regional average for West Africa (52.6).

With a score of 1.67 out of a maximum of 5 in 2022 (latest available data), Burkina Faso ranked 24th of 54 countries in Africa in terms of government effectiveness as measured by the World Bank. On the Current Path, the governance effectiveness score will slightly increase to 1.8 in 2030 and 2.1 (out of 5) by 2043, above the projected average score of 1.7 for low-income African countries (Chart 27).

The Governance scenario assumes better governance: stability, capacity, and inclusion. It measures a state's progress using the average of these three indices. To this end, it includes an index (0 to 1) for each dimension, with higher scores indicating improved outcomes. The scenario also increases government spending on social protection to protect vulnerable people and this is financed by a more regressive taxation rather than borrowing.

Visit the theme on Governance for a full conceptualisation and details on the scenario structure and interventions.

Chart 28: Composite governance index in the Current Path and Governance scenario, 2023-2043

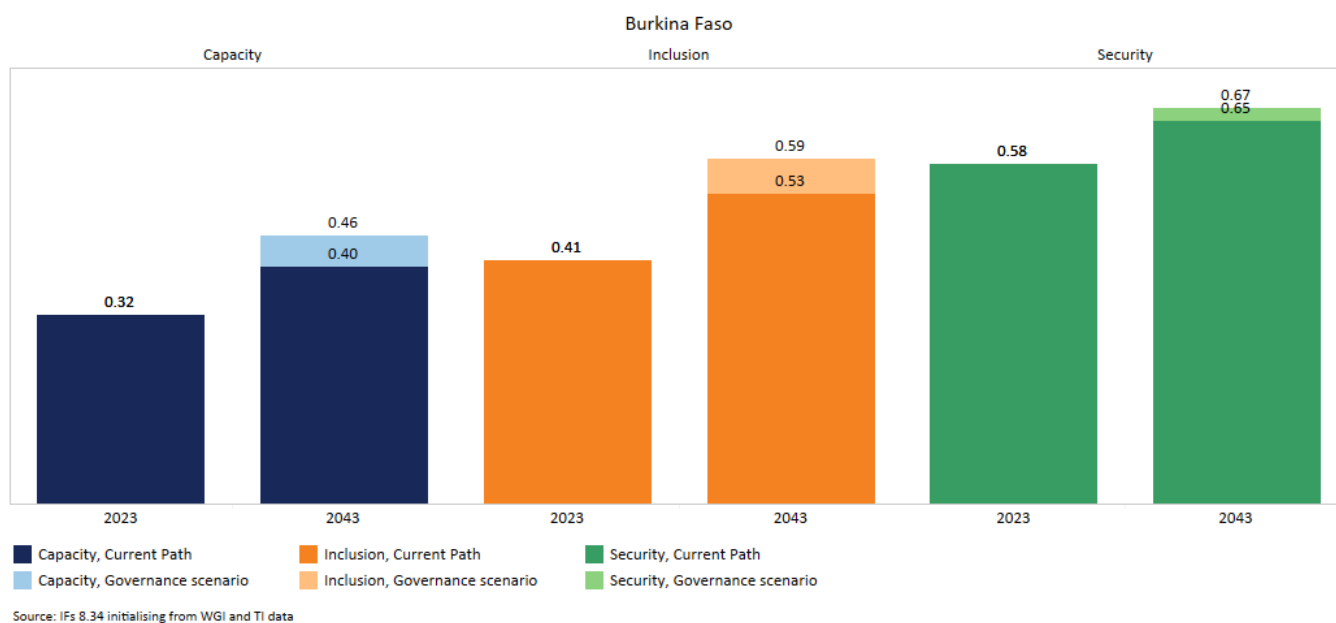


Chart 28 presents the security, capacity and inclusion index for the Current Path versus the Governance scenario, for 2023 and 2043.

Burkina Faso was generally peaceful until 2015 which saw a significant rise in Islamist terrorism in the country. Similar to its neighbours Mali and Niger, Burkina Faso faces several security challenges since then. These include the Sahelian insurgency led by The Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) in northern Tillabéri, and the al-Qaeda-affiliated Jama'at Nusrat Al Islam (JNIM) activity in south-western Tillabéri. According to an [ACLED report](#), more recently, 'Burkina Faso has become the epicentre of the regional conflict' and has replaced Mali. Burkina Faso faces a dire humanitarian crisis. According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), over 2 million people are internally displaced. The country also hosts 38 000 refugees, mostly of Malian origin. The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance increased by 35% between 2022 to 2023, from 3.5 million to almost [4.7 million](#).

As a result, Burkina Faso performs poorly in terms of security compared to many low-income countries in Africa, with a score of 0.58 out of 1, the country ranks 17th out of 22 low-income countries.

The country also performs poorly in terms of government capacity, with a score of 0.3 out of 1. This reflects the low level of government revenue, poor regulatory quality, and weak government effectiveness. Burkina Faso's [tax-to-GDP ratio](#) in 2021 (15.6%) was on par with the average for sub-Saharan Africa (15.6%), but the worsening security situation in the country and the Sahel has resulted in a higher portion of government spending being directed towards national defence. This shift has diminished the limited public resources available for other sectors, including critical pro-poor social sectors like education and health. Additionally, the influx of refugees from neighbouring Mali has further strained the already overburdened public service providers.

The military coups in Burkina Faso have likely had a significant impact on inclusion in Burkina Faso in various ways, particularly in governance, economic participation and social equity. The coups have sidelined democratic institutions, limiting opportunities for diverse representation and participation in decision-making. Key groups, including women, youth and marginalised communities, may face reduced influence in governance under military rule. Elections, political party activities and other inclusive mechanisms for representation have been disrupted, eroding pathways for broader societal participation in leadership. Burkina Faso's score on the inclusion index was 0.4 out of 1 in 2023 compared with 0.54 in 2020.

On the Current Path, Burkina Faso will make progress in all three dimensions of governance. As a result, the country's score on the composite governance index, which is a simple average of the three dimensions of governance mentioned above, will be about 32.5% higher in 2043 than its level in 2023 (Chart 28). In the Governance scenario, the overall governance performance of Burkina is 9.6% higher than the Current Path in 2043, and 14% above the projected average for low-income African. It assumes an early return to civilian rule as indeed promised by the military.

Burkina Faso: Scenario Comparisons

Chart 29: GDP per capita in the Current Path and scenarios, 2020-2043

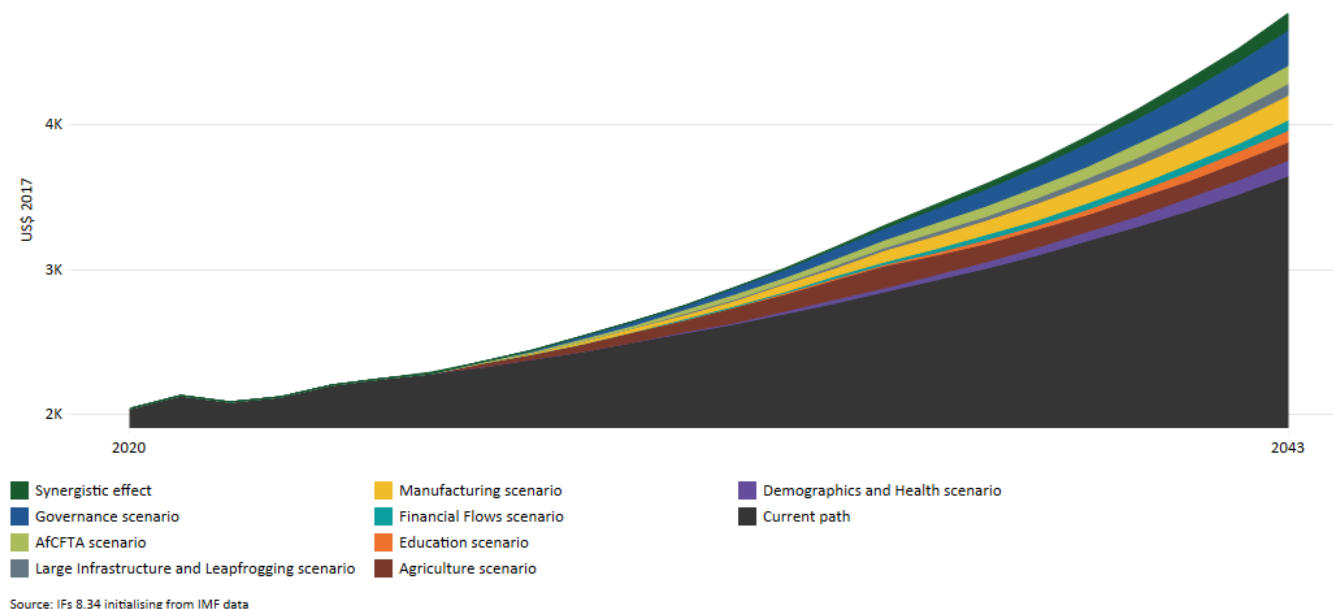


Chart 29 presents GDP per capita in purchasing power parity (PPP) in the Current Path and each of the eight sectoral scenarios, plus the synergistic effect and the Combined scenario. The data is from 2019 with a forecast to 2043.

This section compares the impacts of each sectoral scenario on GDP per capita. Burkina Faso gets a boost to its GDP per capita in all the scenarios (Chart 29). In other words, all the sectoral scenarios contribute to GDP per capita growth above the Current Path.

However, the Governance scenario has the most significant positive impact on GDP per capita with an increase of about US\$24 and US\$240 above the Current Path in 2030 and 2043, respectively. This implies that, if the government of Burkina Faso adopts a more progressive tax system, strengthens its efforts to combat corruption, enhances government effectiveness, promotes socio-political stability, and fosters social inclusion through improved democracy, gender empowerment, and well-targeted social grant programs to support the poorest and most vulnerable households, it could significantly boost economic growth and improve the living standards of its citizens. Social protection, for instance, can affect growth through different levels. At the micro level, by providing support to vulnerable populations, social expenditure can increase household consumption, productivity and employment. At the macro level social expenditure can affect GDP directly, especially during economic downturns as an important countercyclical tool, but also indirectly through different channels such as enhancing human capital and decreasing inequality.

Good governance is crucial for efficient use of public funds for development and improving the well-being of the population. When governance is good, public investments crowd in private investment by providing the energy, roads, logistics and communications links necessary for firms to **function** productively.

The second, third and fourth most significant impact on the GDP per capita is achieved in the Manufacturing scenario (US\$21 and US\$172 above the Current Path in 2030 and 2043, respectively), the AfCFTA scenario (US\$18 and US\$130 above the Current Path in 2030 and 2043, respectively) and the Agriculture scenario (US\$67 and US\$125, above the

Current Path in 2030 and 2043, respectively).

However, the Agriculture scenario has the biggest impact on GDP and GDP per capita in the short term (until 2035).

The Financial Flows scenario is the least impactful in terms of GDP per capita, with an increase of US\$66 compared with the Current Path in 2043. Financial flows such as foreign direct investment (FDI), aid and remittances may have limited impact on economic growth in Burkina Faso due to several factors: FDI is primarily concentrated in resource extraction, such as gold mining, which provides little broad-based economic benefit or opportunities for diversification and technology transfer. The absence of a strong industrial base further limits the potential gains from FDI.

Weak governance often leads to the mismanagement of aid and FDI, while aid tends to prioritise short-term relief over long-term infrastructure development. Foreign aid frequently comes with onerous reporting requirements and conditionalities that may not always align with Burkina Faso's development needs, reducing its effectiveness.

Additionally, low levels of skills and infrastructure, and inefficient banking systems hinder the country's ability to fully benefit from the growth spillover effect from FDI. Remittances are typically spent on immediate consumption, such as food and healthcare, rather than being invested in activities that drive sustainable growth.

So far, the analysis has focused on the sectoral scenarios. These sectors are, however, not isolated; they are strongly interlinked. For instance, infrastructure and human capital development are crucial for industrialisation and economic diversification. Similarly, the provision of rural roads is vital for agriculture commercialisation and food self-sufficiency. Agriculture can also pave the way to manufacturing through agro-processing while improving governance and security cuts across all sectors. Thus, a holistic approach or a coordinated policy push across industries is the best option to achieve inclusive, sustained growth in Burkina Faso. Therefore, the Combined scenario combines all eight sectoral scenarios and represents an integrated development push to remove the binding constraints on sustained, inclusive growth and development in Burkina Faso.

The Combined scenario has a much greater impact on GDP per capita compared to the sum of individual thematic scenarios impacts. By 2030, the GDP per capita of Burkina Faso (PPP) is US\$144.7, larger than in the Current Path. In 2043, it will be US\$1 120, larger than in the Current Path, indicating that an integrated push across all the development sectors could significantly improve the living standard of the people of Burkina Faso.

Chart 30: Poverty in the Current Path and scenarios, 2023-2043

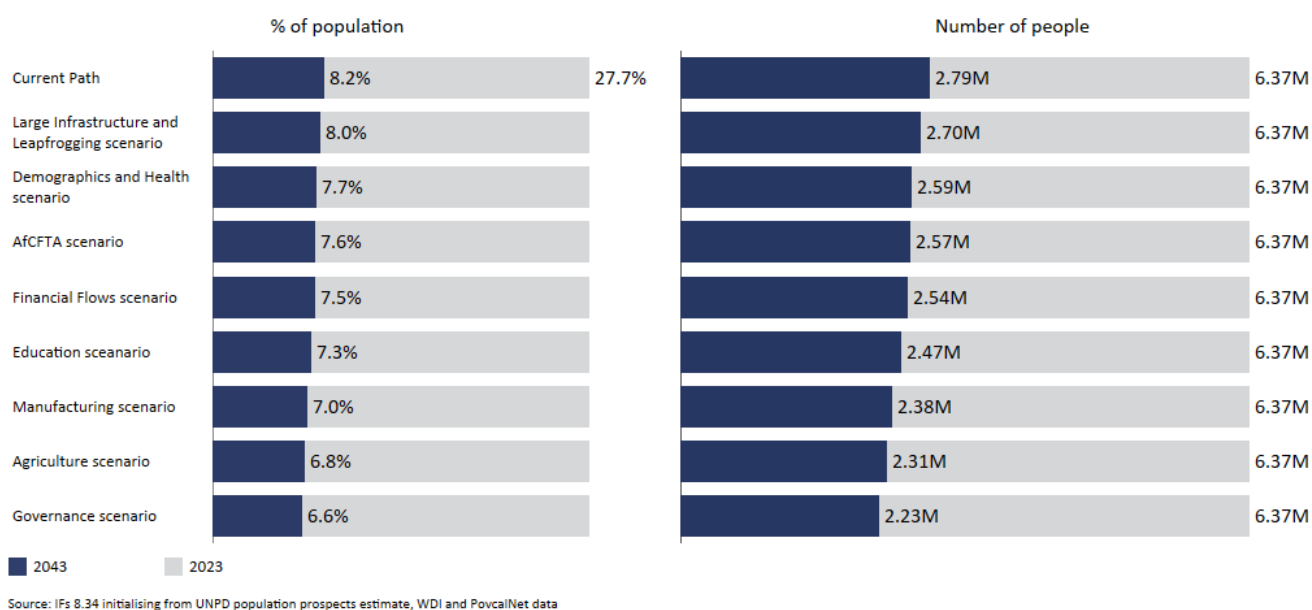


Chart 30 presents poverty in the Current Path and for each scenario, from 2023 to 2043. The user can select the number of extremely poor people or the percentage of the population.

All the scenario interventions contribute to poverty reduction in Burkina Faso (Chart 30); however, the Governance scenario contributes most significantly to reducing the extreme poverty rate by 2043. In the Governance scenario, the poverty rate will decline to 18.9% in 2030 and 6.3% by 2043, compared to the Current Path of 7.9%. This is equivalent to about a 1.6 percentage point decline in poverty compared with the Current Path in 2043. Good governance as embodied, for example, in the control of corruption and the design and implementation of effective regulatory policies, significantly improves the ability of the poor to participate in and benefit from economic growth. Corruption, for instance, affects poor people by reducing the government’s ability to allocate public services in an efficient and equitable manner.

The Governance scenario is followed by the Agriculture scenario and the Manufacturing scenario in terms of poverty reduction. The extreme poverty rate in the Agriculture scenario in Burkina Faso will be 17.9% in 2030 and 6.6% in 2043 compared with the Current Path of 19.6% in 2030 and 7.9% in 2043.

Although the average growth rates in the Manufacturing and AfCFTA scenarios surpass those in the Agriculture scenario, growth in the Agriculture scenario is more pro-poor and inclusive. This is because the agriculture sector employs the majority of the workforce in Burkina Faso. Therefore, improving productivity in this sector could boost incomes for millions and significantly reduce poverty in the country overall. Until 2035, the Agriculture scenario has the lowest number of poor people compared to other scenarios. These findings imply that in the short to medium term, growth in the agriculture sector has the most potential to raise income and consumption among the poorest in Burkina Faso. However, as productivity in the sector improves it eventually starts to shed jobs.

The extreme poverty rate in the Manufacturing scenario in Burkina Faso will be 19% in 2030 and 6.7% in 2043 compared with the Current Path of 7.9% in 2043. Like in other African countries, many impoverished individuals in Burkina Faso find themselves entrenched in low-productivity, informal service-based activities. Boosting the manufacturing sector will generate inclusive growth by facilitating the transition of low-income individuals from these sectors to higher productivity areas. This structural shift not only boosts incomes but fosters a positive cycle wherein the growth of productive

employment, capacities and earnings mutually reinforce one another, propelling economic expansion and poverty reduction.

In the Combined scenario, by 2030, 16.4% of the population will be living in extreme poverty compared to 19.6% in the Current Path. This represents about 870 000 fewer people living in extreme poverty compared to the Current Path. This suggests that without decisive action, the country risks significantly falling short of achieving the poverty-related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).

By 2043, the extreme poverty rate at the US\$2.15 poverty line will decline to roughly 2.6% (1.1 million people) compared to 7.9% (3.5 million people) in the Current Path in the same year. The materialisation of the Combined scenario could therefore help Burkina Faso eliminate extreme poverty or achieve SDG Target 1.1, though progress is slightly behind schedule, with the target projected to be met around 2043, a decade earlier than the Current Path. This is, however, a more positive outcome compared to other low-income countries in Africa that are projected to achieve this target much later.

Chart 31: GDP (MER) in the Current Path and Combined scenario, 2020-2043

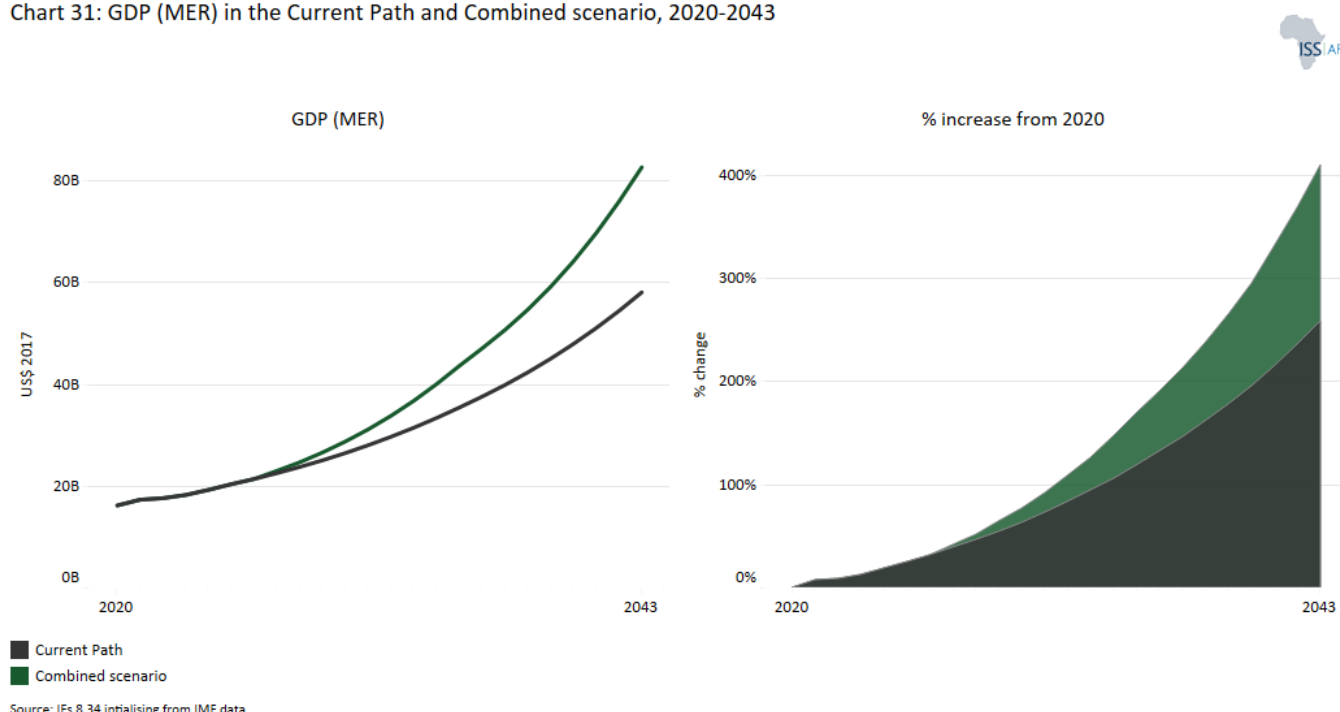


Chart 31 presents GDP in the Current Path and in the Combined scenario, from 2019 to 2043. The data is in US\$ 2017 and at market exchange rates (MER).

The Combined scenario combines all eight sectoral scenarios: Governance, Demographics and Health, Education, Large Infrastructure and Leapfrogging, Agriculture, Manufacturing, AfCFTA and Financial Flows.

Assuming that the Combined scenario is implemented, Burkina Faso could expect a significant improvement in its growth prospects. In this scenario, the average growth rate between 2025 and 2043 is about 8% compared with 5.9% on the Current Path over the same period. The size of the economy measured in GDP at the market exchange rate (MER) is US\$2.2 billion and US\$24.5 billion larger than the Current Path in 2030 and 2043, respectively.

On the Current Path, Burkina Faso will have the 19th-largest economy in Africa by 2043. If the Combined scenario is implemented, the country will have the 16th-largest economy in Africa in 2043 with a GDP of about US\$28.8 billion in 2030

and US\$82.6 billion in 2043, assuming a business-as-usual scenario (Current Path assumptions) for other countries.

Chart 32: Value added by sector in the Current Path and Combined scenario, 2023-2043

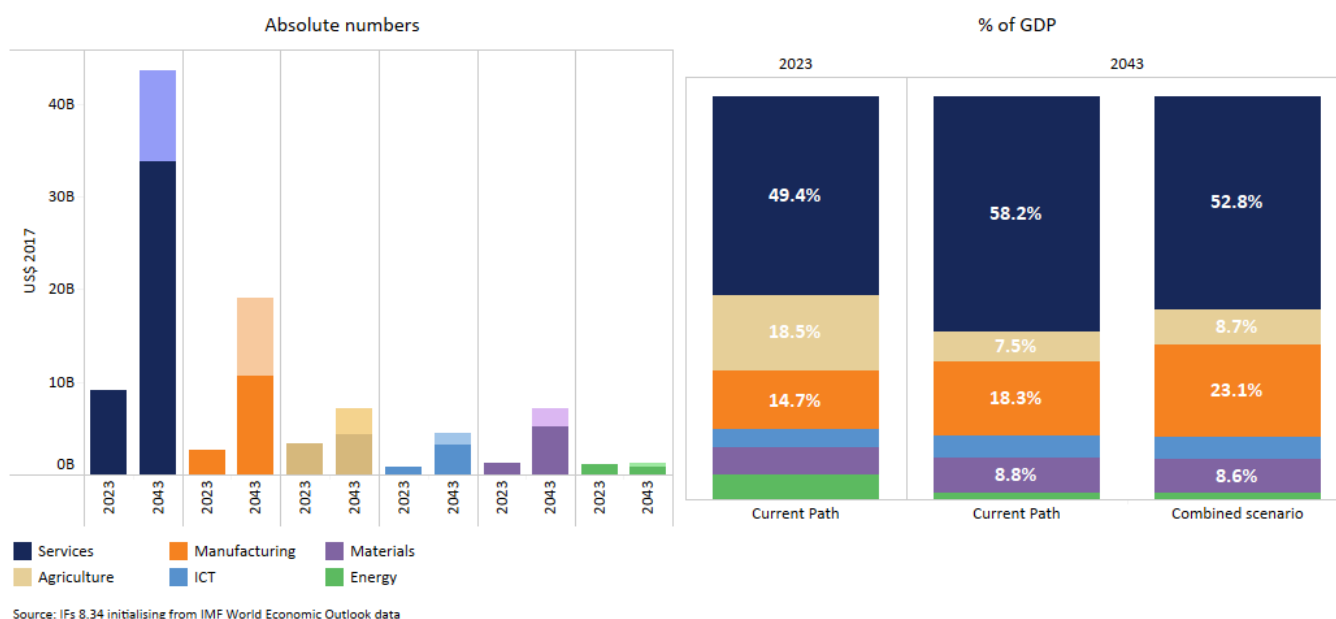


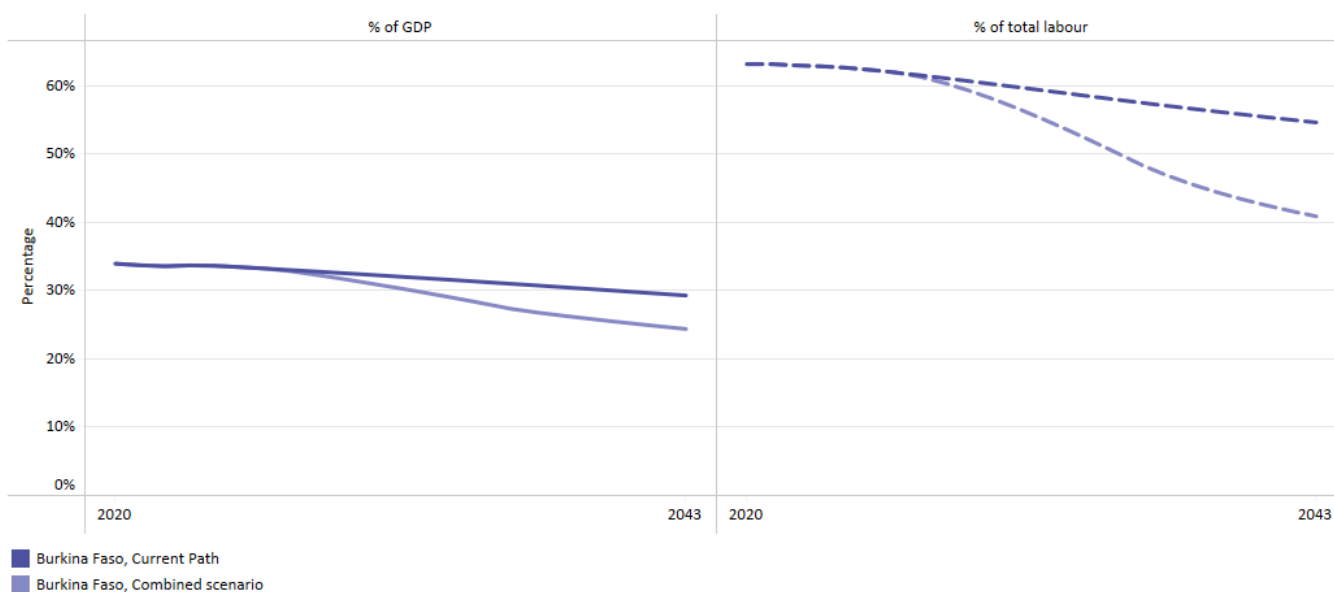
Chart 32 presents the value added by sector in the Current Path and in the Combined scenario, from 2019 to 2043. The data is in US\$ 2017 and as a percentage of GDP.

Implementing the Combined scenario will increase the value-added of all the sectors above the Current Path across the forecast horizon to 2043 (Chart 32).

In 2043, the agriculture value-added in the Combined scenario is about US\$2.8 billion, larger than the Current Path in the same year. The manufacturing and services value-added are US\$9.8 and US\$8.4 billion, respectively, higher than the Current Path in 2043.

Implementing the Combined scenario could accelerate the structural transformation of Burkina Faso's economy, with the share of the manufacturing sector in GDP of 23%, about five percentage points of GDP above the Current Path in 2043. The share of the agriculture sector in GDP declines from 18.5% in 2023 to 8.7% in 2043 as a result of the structural transformation of the economy. The services sector remains the dominant sector in the economy, although its contribution to GDP in the Combined scenario (52.8% in 2043) is lower than the Current Path of 58% in the same year. Labour productivity in manufacturing is significantly higher than in services, making it economically beneficial to transfer labour from the less productive, largely informal, service sector to the more productive manufacturing sector.

Chart 33: Informal sector in the Current Path and Combined scenario, 2020-2043



Source: IFs 8.34 initialising from Elgin and Oztunali (2008), and Schneider and Enste (2012) data

Chart 33 presents the size of the informal sector as percentage of the total economy in the Current Path and in the Combined scenario, from 2019 to 2043.

With limited formal sector opportunities, most of the workforce in Burkina Faso is employed in the low-value-added informal sector. The size of Burkina Faso’s informal economy was estimated at 33.7% of GDP in 2023, above the average of 29.2% for low-income Africa. On the Current Path, the level of informality will likely decline to 32.3% in 2030, and 29.3% of GDP by 2043, still above the projected average of 26.8% for low-income Africa in the year. Assuming that all policies and reforms in the Combined scenario are implemented, the size of the informal sector could decline to 24% of GDP in 2043, below the projected average for low-income Africa. As a result, informal labour as a percentage of total labour in Burkina Faso could decline to 40.8 compared with 54.6 in the Current Path in 2043.

Chart 34: Life expectancy in the Current Path and Combined scenario, 2020-2043

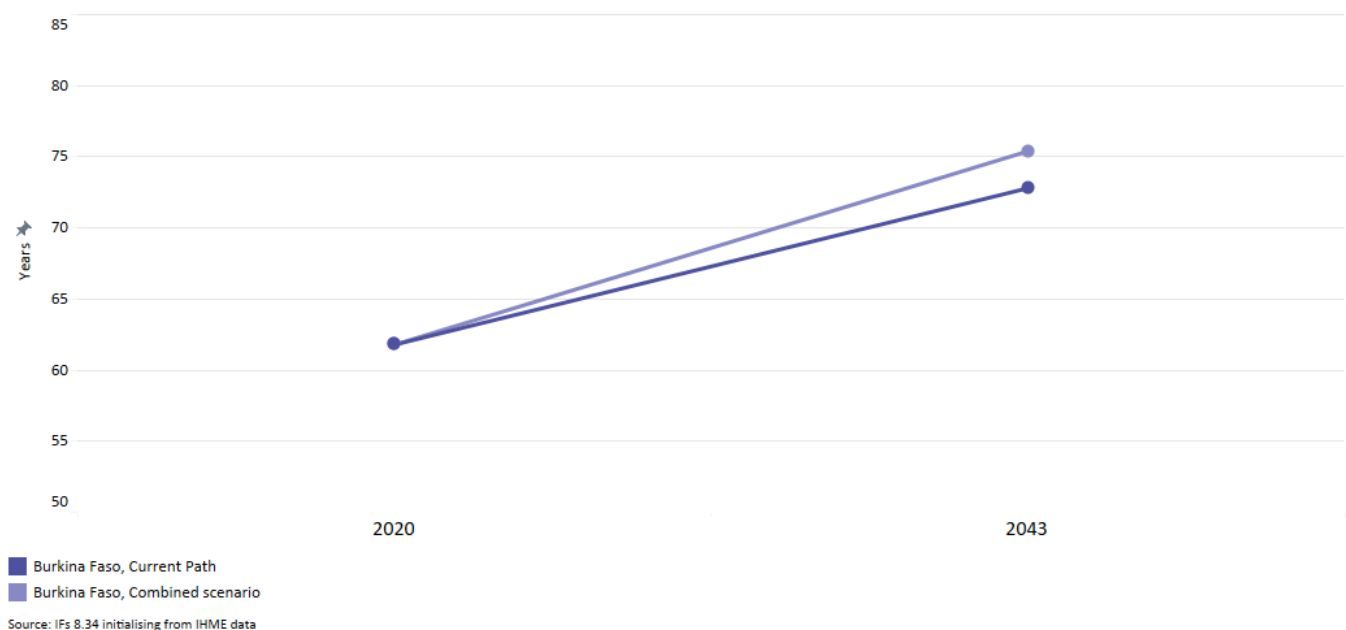


Chart 34 compares life expectancy in the Current Path with the Combined scenario from 2019 to 2043.

In Burkina Faso, life expectancy at birth has improved by about 12 years from 52.6 years in 2000 to 63.5 years in 2023. Life expectancy for women stood at about 66.3 years in 2023 compared with 60.9 years for men. On the Current Path, life expectancy at birth will further improve to 72.8 years by 2043. In the Combined scenario, the average Burkinabé could expect to live about 2.6 years longer at 75.4 years, 3.7 years above the projected average for low-income Africa in 2043.

Chart 35: Domestic Gini in the Current Path and Combined scenario, 2020-2043

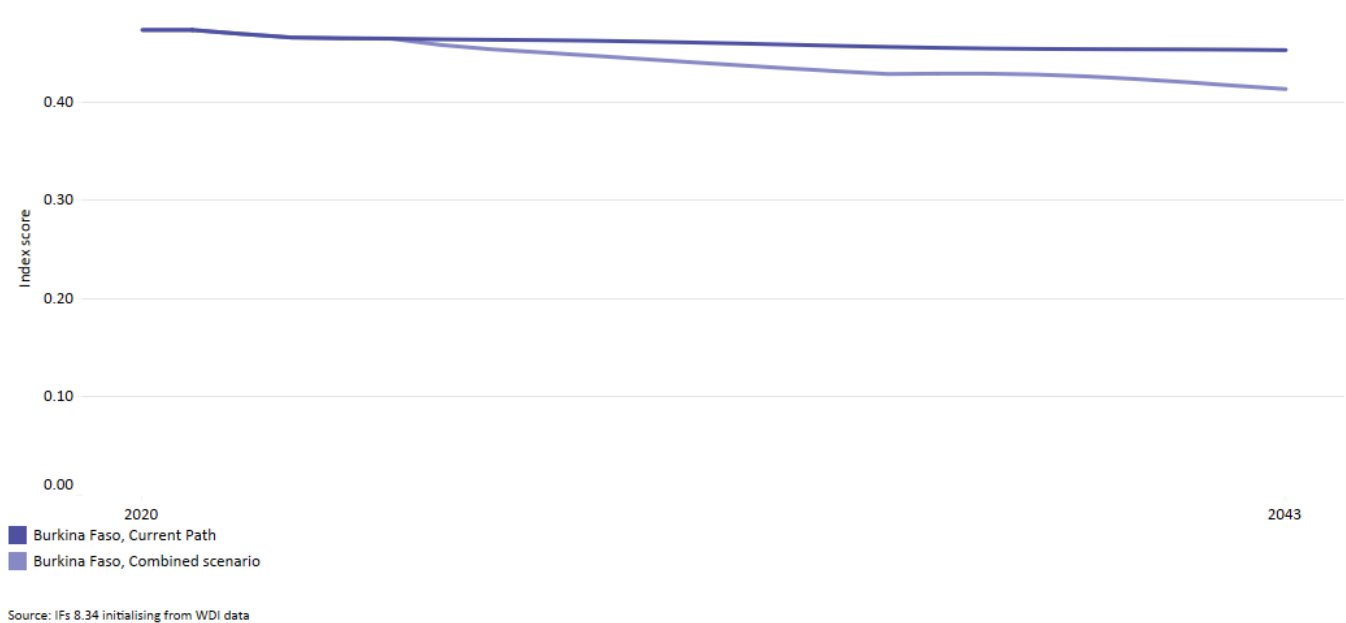
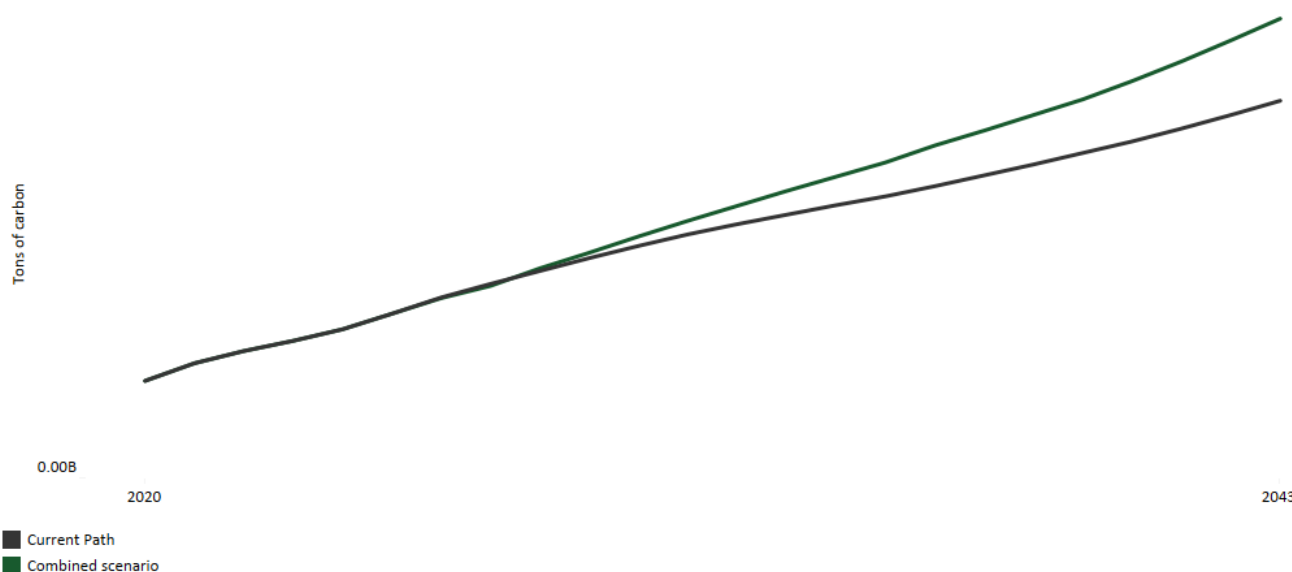


Chart 35 compares the Gini coefficient in the Current Path with the Combined scenario in 2023 and 2043.

The intensity of income inequality captured by the Gini index has slightly declined by 1.6%, from 0.481 to 0.473, over the period 1994-2018. Our modelling estimates it at 0.46 in 2023. On the Current Path, income inequality in Burkina Faso will slowly continue its downward trends with a Gini coefficient of 0.45 by 2043. The implementation of the Combined scenario could, however, generate inclusive growth and improve income distribution in the country. In the Combined scenario, the Gini index will decline to 0.41 by 2043, about 8.9% lower than the Current Path in the same year.

Chart 36: Carbon emissions in the Current Path and Combined scenario, 2020-2043

Million tons of carbon (note, not CO₂ equivalent)



Source: IFS 8.34 initialising from Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center data

Chart 36 compares carbon emissions in the Current Path with the Combined scenario from 2019 to 2043. Note that the data is in million tons of carbon, not CO₂ equivalent.

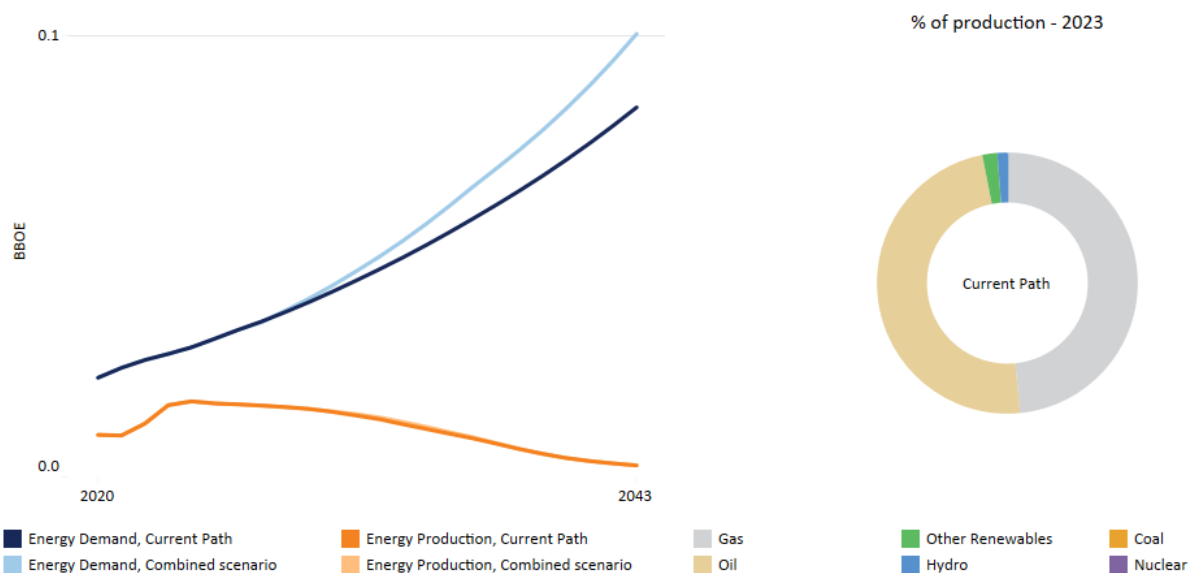
In 2023, Burkina Faso released about two million tons of carbon, and in the Current Path, it will release 5.5 million tons by 2043. Although carbon emissions are set to increase with increased economic activity, Burkina Faso's carbon emissions come from a very low base. Like many developing countries, Burkina Faso will disproportionately suffer the impact of climate change which it has contributed very little to.

The effects of climate change are increasingly evident across Burkina Faso. Even the eastern and southwestern regions, which typically enjoy more favourable weather conditions, are now experiencing rising temperatures and localised droughts. To address these challenges, the government is assisting communities by digging wells and constructing small water reservoirs to **optimise** the use of the country's limited water resources.

In the Sahelian region of Africa, climate change is expected to bring significant shifts in rainfall patterns, exacerbate water shortages and lower agricultural yields. These changes are projected to amplify drought risks, increase evaporation rates and further strain agricultural productivity, with rainfall anticipated to decline by **10%** by 2050. Additionally, rising temperatures could heighten the likelihood of forest fires and bushfires, further compounding environmental and economic challenges.

The materialisation of the Combined scenario and the associated rapid economic growth in Burkina Faso will increase carbon emissions to 6.8 million tons by 2043, 1.3 million tons above the Current Path in the same year.

Chart 37: Energy demand and production by type in the Current Path and Combined scenario, 2020-2043



Source: IFs 8.34 initialising from World Energy Outlook data

Chart 37 compares energy demand and production in the Current Path with the Combined scenario from 2019 to 2043. Production is done in six types, namely oil, gas, coal, hydro, nuclear and other renewables. The data is converted into billion barrels of oil equivalent (BOE) to allow for comparisons. Note that energy production could be for domestic use or for export.

According to our modelling, the total energy produced in Burkina Faso in 2023 stood at 16.5 million barrels of oil equivalent (BOE) compared with a total energy demand of 27.9 million BOE, thus a deficit of production of 11.4 million BOE. Burkina Faso's economy is highly dependent on energy imports. About 90% of its electricity is either imported or generated from imported oil, making the country particularly vulnerable to oil price fluctuations. At the same time, Burkina Faso faces significant challenges related to energy access, energy security and climate change mitigation. With stagnant electrification rates in recent years, less than 10% of the rural population has access to electricity, leaving many schools and hospitals without power. Rural communities rely on costly and harmful sources like kerosene, batteries and candles to meet basic energy needs, with no access to electricity for everyday use or income-generating activities.

On the Current Path, total energy demand will continue to outgrow production so that by 2043, the energy production deficit will be equivalent to 61.7 million BOE compared to a deficit of 73.1 million BOE in the Combined scenario, reflecting an increase in energy demand in the Combined scenario.

Currently, oil and gas are the main source of energy in Burkina Faso. Energy production from other sources is negligible. However, energy produced from other renewable sources, especially solar, has been increasing though from a very low base. On the Current Path, solar will be the main source of energy in Burkina Faso from 2033. The composition of energy production and demand in the Combined scenario will not significantly differ from the Current Path.

Burkina Faso: Conclusion

Chart 38: Policy recommendations

Recommendations

- Promote good and inclusive governance by improving public sector efficiency, strengthening institutions and combating corruption
- Enhance domestic revenue mobilisation to ensure macroeconomic stability by adopting a digitised tax-collecting system
- Promote social inclusion by reducing gender inequalities, empowering women and creating opportunities for marginalised groups
- Enhance agricultural productivity and food security by equipping farmers with modern farming techniques, irrigation systems and essential inputs
- Boost infrastructure development by increasing electrification, investing in renewable energy sources and improving transport and ICT
- Diversify the economy by investing in adding value to raw materials and agricultural products, particularly cotton and gold, to stimulate local industries
- Improve the business environment and political stability to attract manufacturing FDI
- Invest in human capital to assist in the structural transformation of the economy
- Review the education curriculum in collaboration with the private sector and industrialists to match it with labour market needs
- Enhance climate resilience by investing in natural hazard prevention, improving early warning systems and reinforcing adaptation measures in agriculture
- Promote regional integration and trade by fully implementing the AfCFTA
- Help prevent the spread of extremism and contribute to sustainable development through development aid by the international community

Chart 38 summarises the policy recommendations for Burkina Faso.

This report outlines Burkina Faso's current development challenges and the strategic opportunities to put the country on a path of inclusive and sustainable growth and development.

The Current Path (business-as-usual scenario) analysis has revealed that Burkina Faso faces significant development challenges. The country has, however, made progress and is forecast to improve its economic and human development outcomes going forward. Yet, the improvement is not fast enough, and the country is not on track to achieve most of the SDGs by 2030. Burkina Faso grapples with complex, interlinked challenges that have contributed to its economic fragility, impeding inclusive growth and development. The country's main growth constraints include insecurity, limited economic diversification, climate change and variability, low agricultural productivity, poor business environment, infrastructure shortages and limited human capital.

Tackling these issues is crucial to set the country on a path of sustained growth and shared prosperity. The government must take decisive, targeted actions on the priority policies outlined below:

- *Economic diversification and value addition*

Burkina Faso authorities should reduce the economy's heavy reliance on agriculture and mining by promoting industrialisation, agro-processing and manufacturing to boost formal job creation and poverty reduction. This can be done by encouraging the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through financial support, fiscal incentives, capacity-building programs, and access to markets and the promotion of value chains by investing in adding value to raw materials and agricultural products, particularly cotton and gold, to create more jobs and stimulate local industries. The business environment also needs to be improved to attract manufacturing FDI.

- *Agricultural productivity and food security*

Agriculture should be modernised by equipping farmers with access to improved farming techniques, irrigation systems and essential inputs like seeds and fertilisers to boost productivity. Promoting climate-smart practices is also vital to reduce the impact of climate change on agriculture, especially given Burkina Faso's vulnerability to droughts and unpredictable weather patterns. Additionally, improving the rural transport network with reliable, all-weather roads is crucial to facilitating agricultural commercialisation and market access. According to a [study](#) by Dorward et al. in 2009, poor road connectivity to markets in Malawi motivates farmers to continually produce solely for their households' consumption as they are unsure whether they can sell the crop in the market.

Agricultural production and commercialisation should be protected from weather events by investing in climate-resilient infrastructure. For instance, solar power that facilitates irrigation and temperature control for food storage could be adopted. In Ghana, for instance, solar-powered cold storage run by a private firm is used to help smallholder farmers preserve their perishable crops from five to 21 days and there is a mobile application that connects farmers to food aggregators to help reduce post-harvest losses. In return, farmers pay a daily fee of **US\$0.3 per 20 kg** crate stored or pay weekly. This kind of green cold storage can be adopted in Burkina Faso and will drive private investment to the sector.

Given Burkina Faso's large rural population, investing in rural access roads will promote positive economic impacts such as improved rural incomes, increased agricultural productivity and increased participation in the economy and reduce poverty as shown by the scenario analysis.

- *Improvement of quality and supply of infrastructure*

Authorities should enhance energy access by increasing electrification, particularly in rural areas, through investments in renewable energy sources such as solar, which offer affordable and reliable electricity. Additionally, they should improve transport networks by upgrading road, rail and transportation infrastructure to better connect rural areas with urban markets and lower transportation costs. Strengthening ICT infrastructure is also essential, with a focus on expanding internet access and digital services to promote education, business development and access to information, especially in underserved regions. Given the high cost of infrastructure, the government may explore public-private partnerships. Access to electricity in remote areas can be provided through mini-grid and off-grid solutions using renewable energy.

- *Strengthening human capital*

Expanded access to education, particularly in rural areas, and improving the quality of schooling to raise literacy rates and better prepare students for the workforce is crucial. Investing in vocational training is also essential, with the development of vocational and technical programs to equip students with skills for industries like construction, manufacturing and ICT. Promoting gender equality in education is key, ensuring that girls and young women have equal access to learning and training by addressing the cultural and economic barriers that limit their participation.

Additionally, the healthcare system must be strengthened by enhancing access to quality care, especially in rural regions, through investments in health infrastructure, training healthcare workers and ensuring affordable services. Efforts to combat child malnutrition should include implementing nutrition programs, along with improving sanitation and access to clean water.

- *Social inclusion and poverty reduction*

Burkina Faso should implement social safety nets by strengthening programs aimed at vulnerable populations, such as cash transfers (included in the Governance scenario), healthcare and food security initiatives, to reduce poverty and

inequality. The country needs to prioritise policies that create opportunities for marginalised groups, including women, youth and rural communities, ensuring they share in the benefits of economic growth. Empowering women by increasing their participation in the economy through improved access to credit, training and business opportunities is crucial, while addressing gender-based barriers.

- *Good governance and institutional strengthening for a more inclusive development and sustainable peace*

The country should enhance governance and transparency by improving public sector efficiency, strengthening institutions and combating corruption to ensure more effective public service delivery. Empowering local governments through decentralisation by providing them with the resources and capacity to implement development programs tailored to local needs is important. Burkina Faso needs to address security challenges and political instability, especially in conflict-affected areas, to foster a stable environment conducive to investment and growth.

- *Enhancing domestic revenue mobilisation to mitigate the impact of the falling foreign aid and ensure macroeconomic stability*

This can be done by implementing several key strategies such as a digitised tax collecting system to facilitate efficient tax processing and minimise corruption, streamlining business registration processes to make them more user-friendly and simplifying tax laws to make them easier to understand and comply with. By focusing on these areas, tax administration can enhance its efficiency, reduce the informal sector, and build trust between tax authorities and taxpayers.

- *Enhancing climate risk management*

Burkina Faso is prone to extreme weather events, including floods and droughts, which affect agriculture productivity. Authorities should invest in the prevention of natural hazards and improve early warning systems and reinforce adaptation measures in agriculture. Strengthen climate resilience by developing policies and programs that help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change are vital, especially in agriculture, water management, and disaster preparedness.

- *Regional integration and trade*

Leveraging AfCFTA to expand market access, increase exports and foster economic collaboration is a great opportunity for Burkina Faso.

By implementing these policies and initiatives, the country could promote socio-political stability, sustainable and inclusive growth, reduce poverty, and create more equitable opportunities for its population.

- *International community support through development aid*

Cutting development aid to Burkina Faso risks reversing hard-won gains in the country's development and stability. While the political context is important, cutting aid during a time of terrorism and conflict could exacerbate political instability and deepen underdevelopment.

Already vulnerable populations are likely to suffer from new cycles of violence and poverty. Development aid strengthens the social contract by supporting public services and mitigating violence risks. It also helps fragile states absorb economic shocks—critical in the Global South, where economies face the lingering impacts of COVID-19, climate risks and the war in Ukraine. In such contexts, aid is essential for meeting basic needs like food and water.

Without aid, Burkina Faso's government will struggle to manage these shocks, creating a vacuum that extremist groups

could exploit, eroding state authority and increasing the risk of conflict. Reducing aid also limits Western influence to promote constitutional governance and counter armed groups like the Wagner Group.

Continued provision of aid offers a pathway to engage with the current leadership and encourage a transition back to constitutionalism. By maintaining support, the international community can help prevent the spread of extremism and contribute to sustainable development and peace in Burkina Faso.

Annex

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