



# Burkina Faso

## Burkina Faso: Scenario Comparisons

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

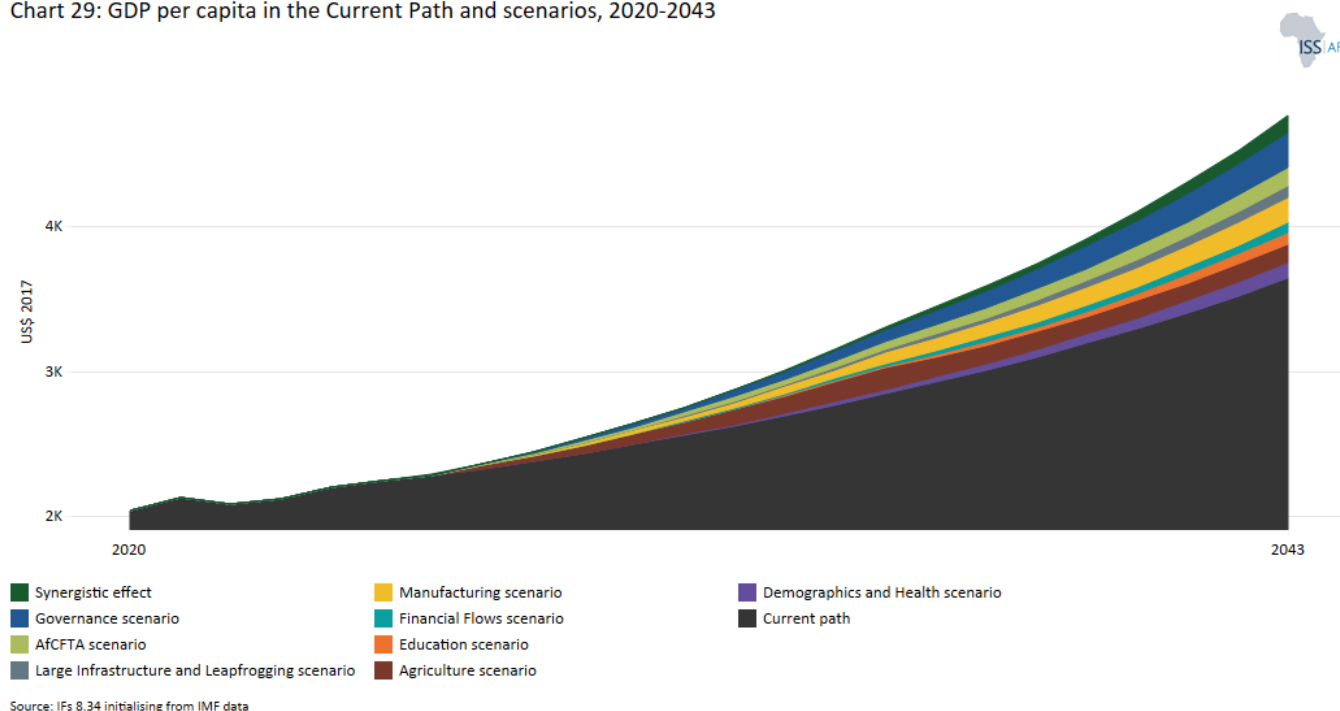


Chart 29 presents GDP per capita in purchasing power parity (PPP) in the Current Path and each of the eight sectoral scenarios, plus the synergistic effect and the Combined scenario. The data is from 2019 with a forecast to 2043.

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

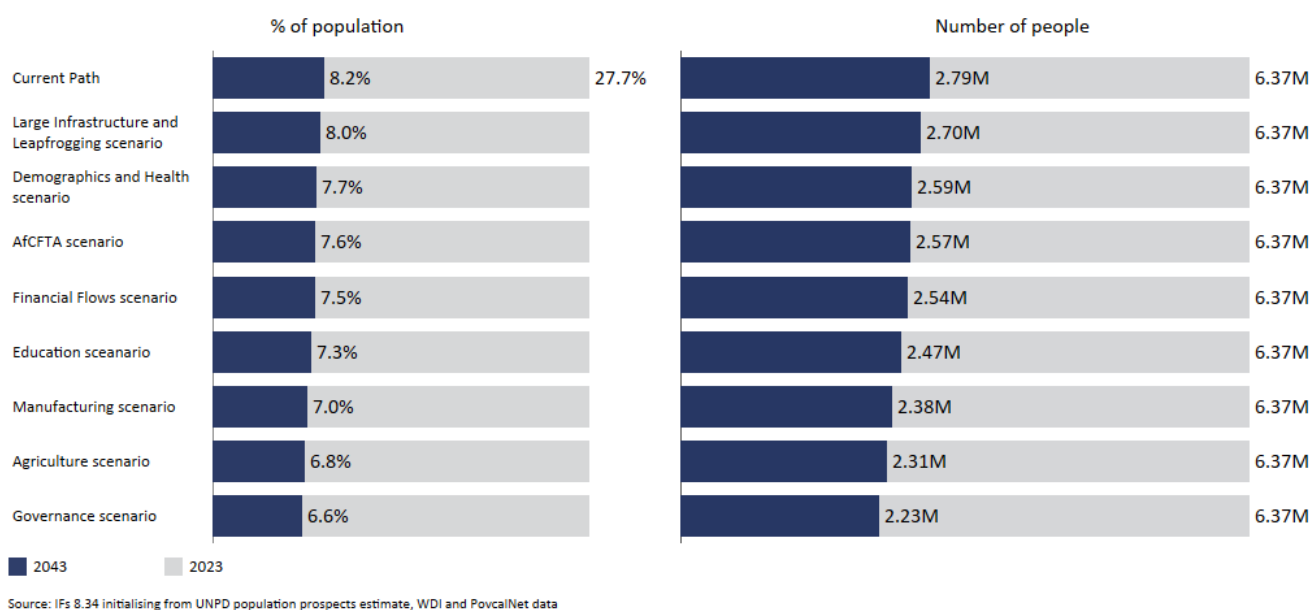


Chart 30 presents poverty in the Current Path and for each scenario, from 2023 to 2043. The user can select the number of extremely poor people or the percentage of the population.

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

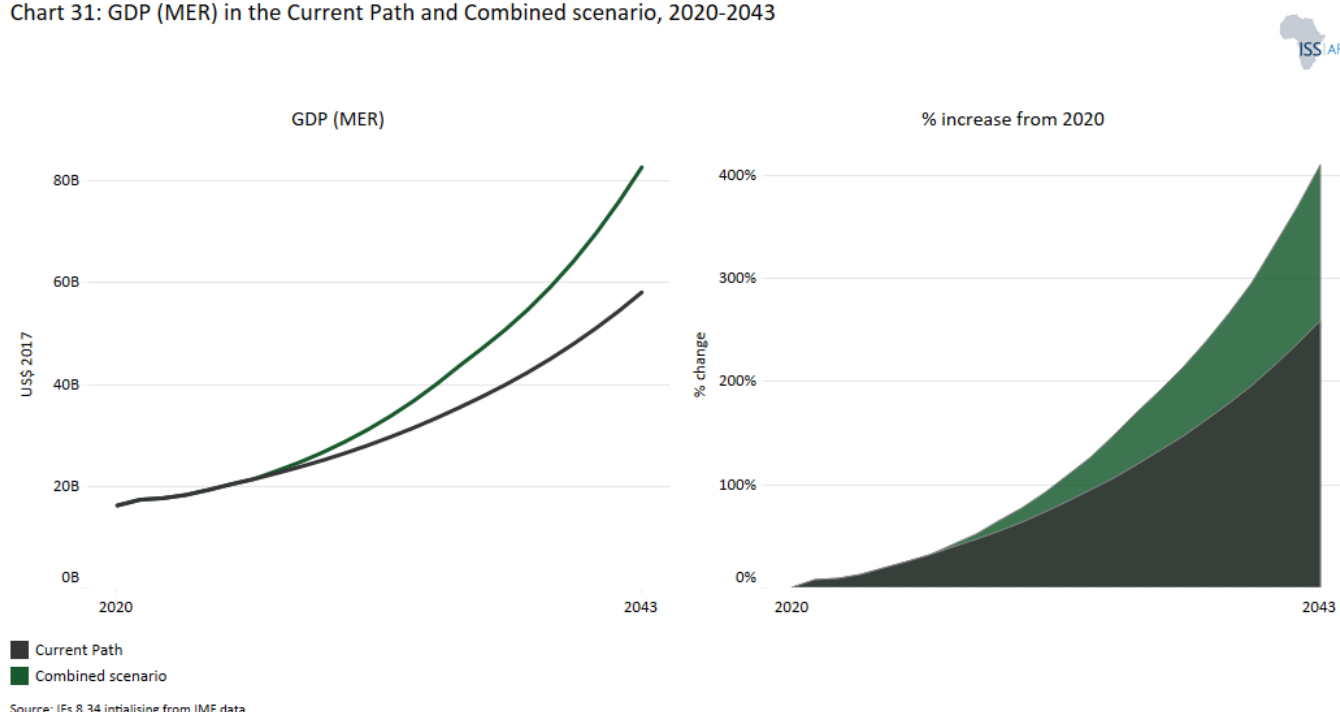


Chart 31 presents GDP in the Current Path and in the Combined scenario, from 2019 to 2043. The data is in US\$ 2017 and at market exchange rates (MER).

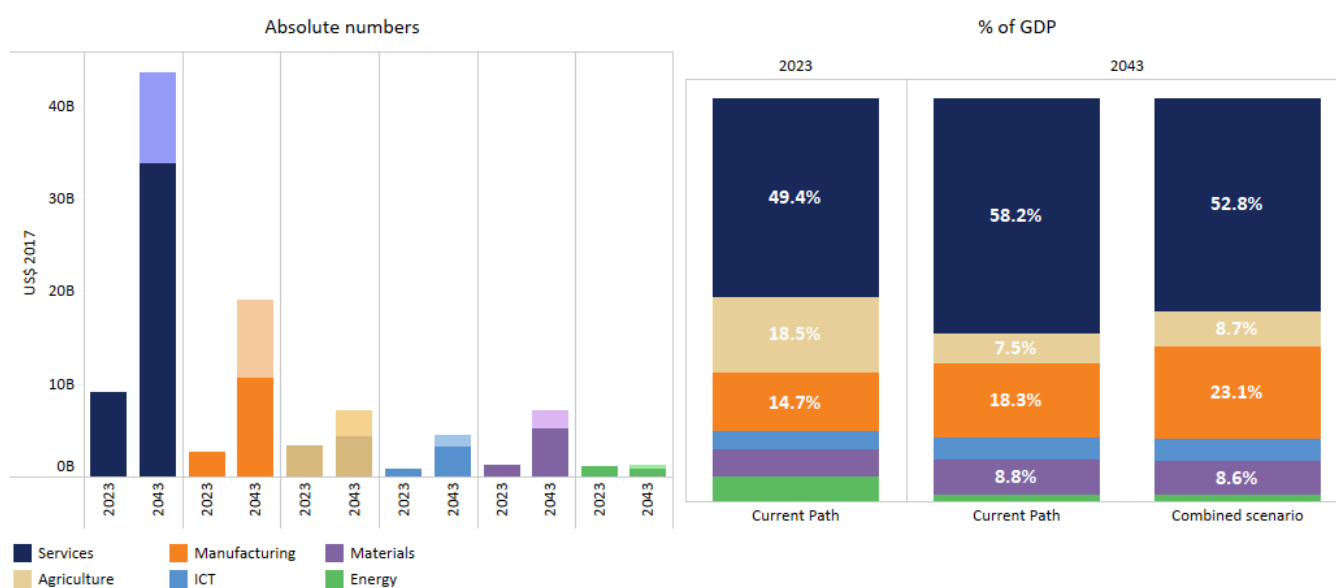
The Combined scenario combines all eight sectoral scenarios: Governance, Demographics and Health, Education, Large Infrastructure and Leapfrogging, Agriculture, Manufacturing, AfCFTA and Financial Flows.

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



Source: IFs 8.34 initialising from IMF World Economic Outlook data

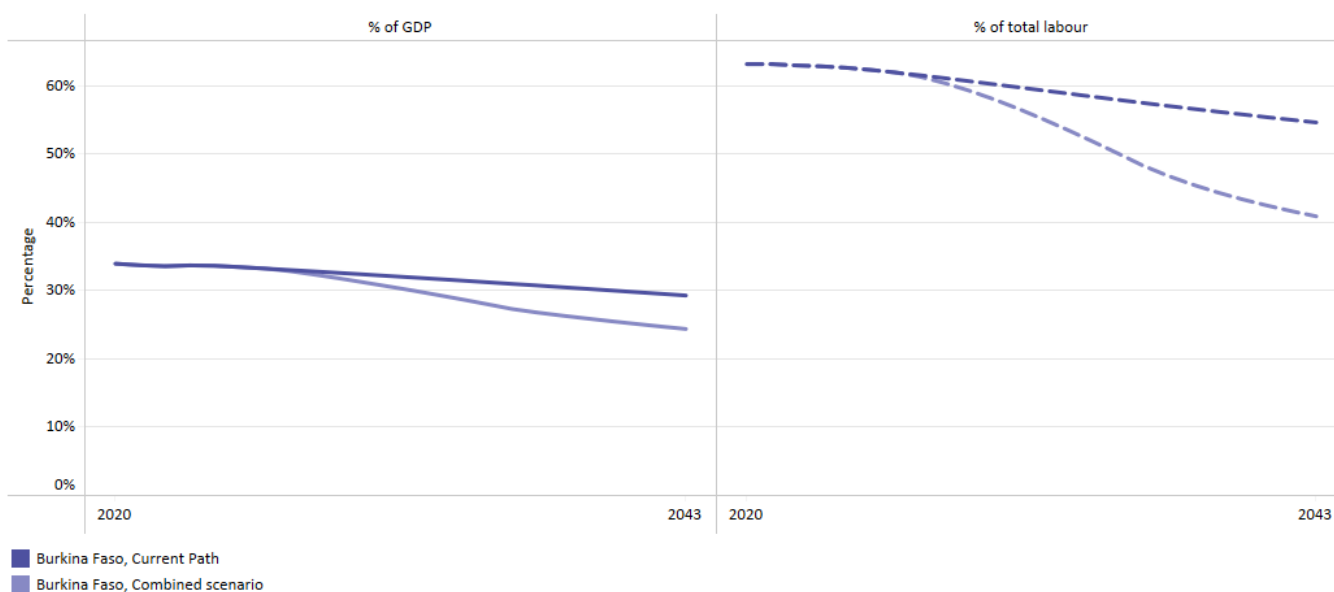
Chart 32 presents the value added by sector in the Current Path and in the Combined scenario, from 2019 to 2043. The data is in US\$ 2017 and as a percentage of GDP.

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

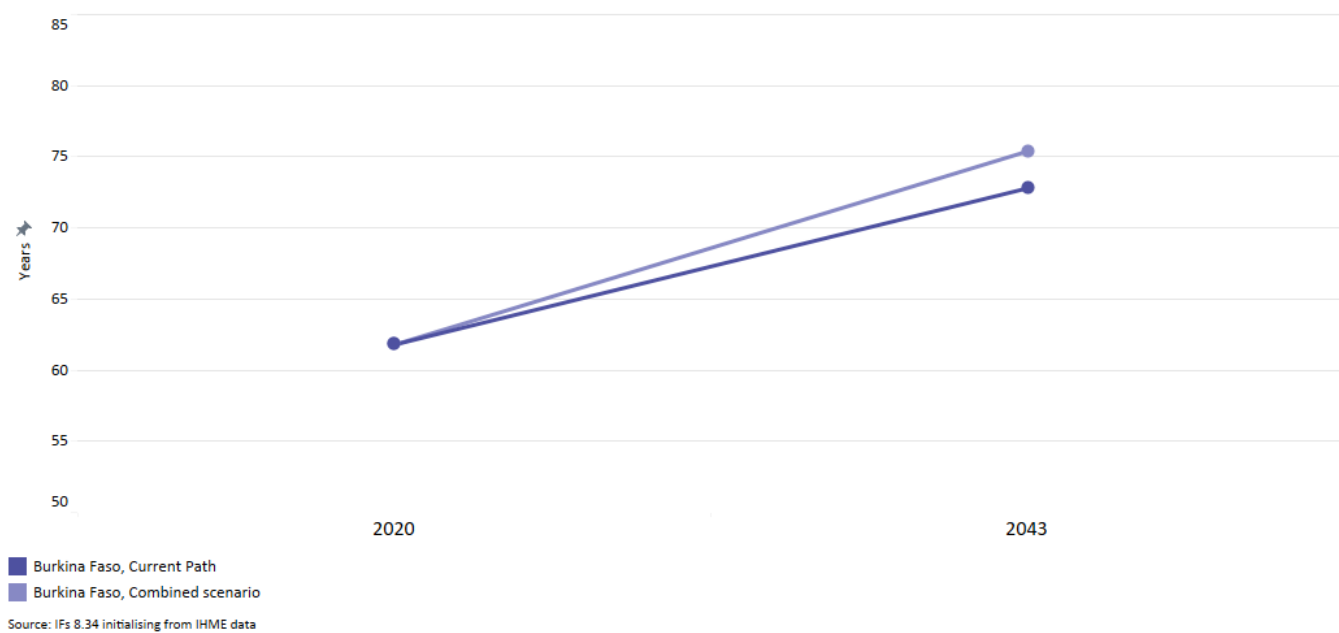


Chart 34 compares life expectancy in the Current Path with the Combined scenario from 2019 to 2043.

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

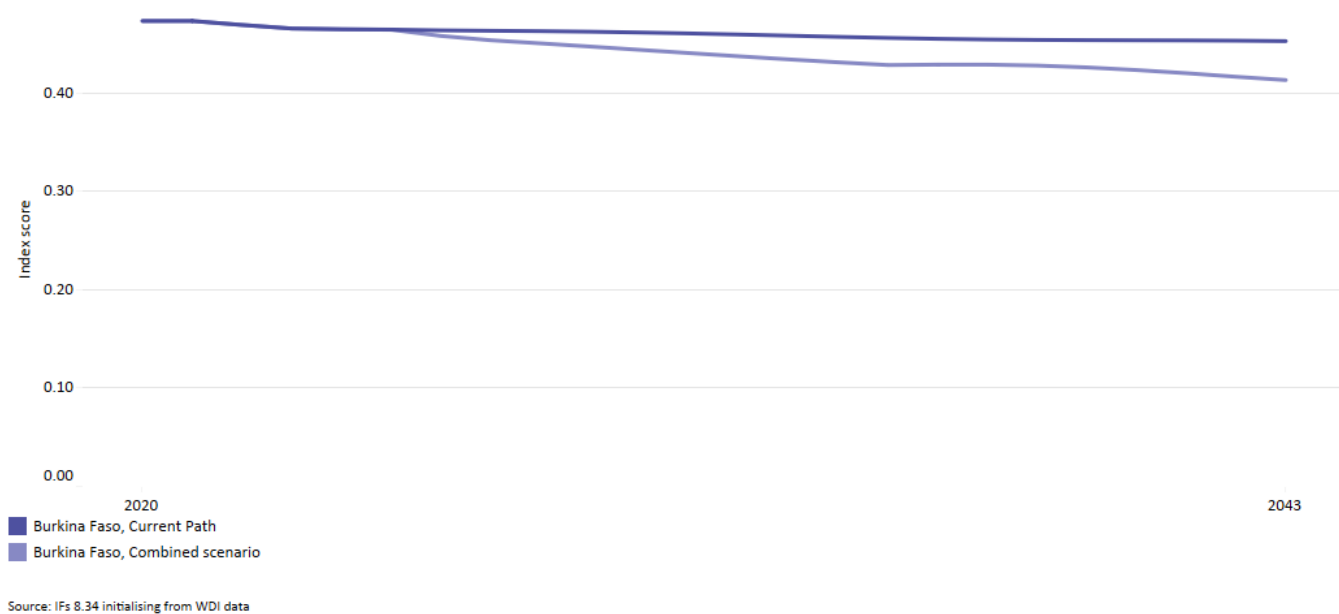


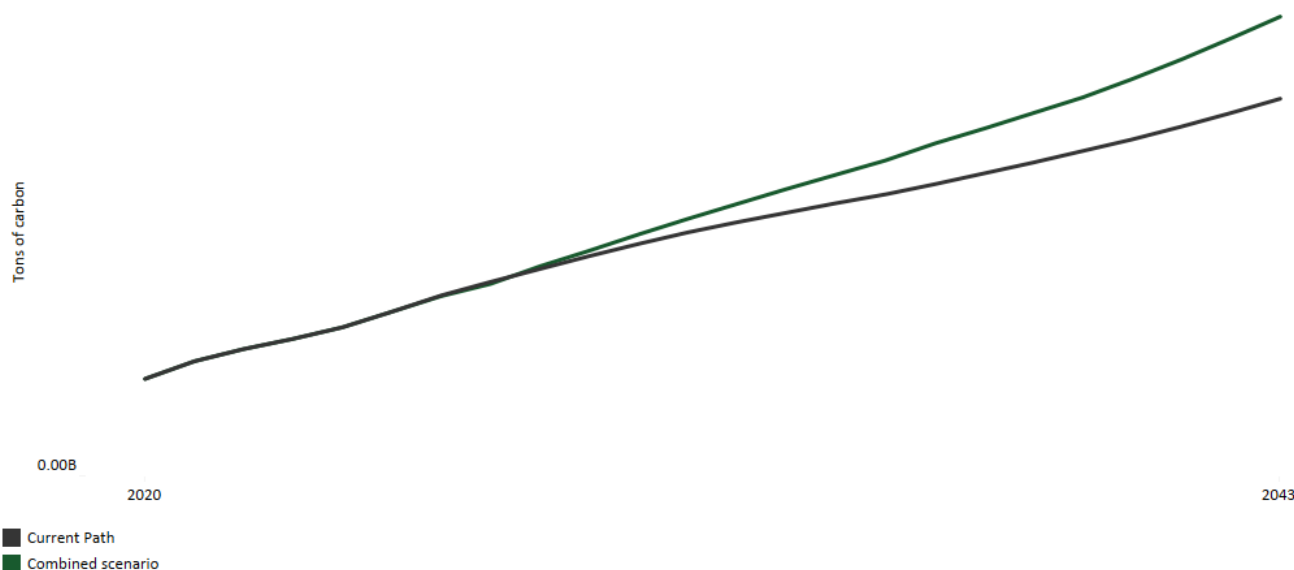


Chart 35 compares the Gini coefficient in the Current Path with the Combined scenario in 2023 and 2043.

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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

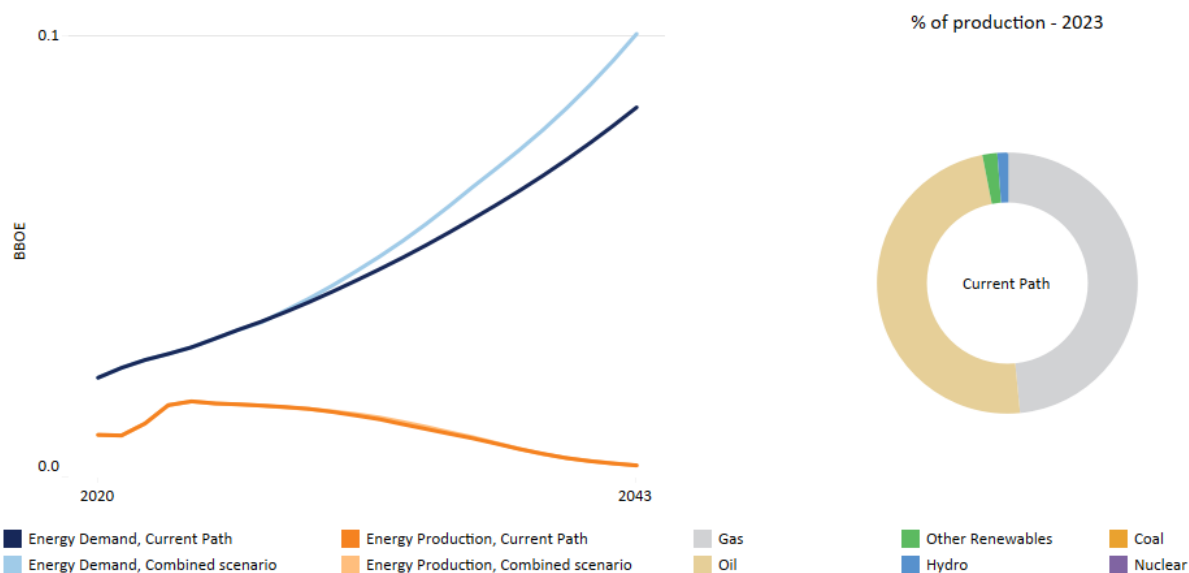
In 2023, Burkina Faso released about two million tons of carbon, and in the Current Path, it will release 5.5 million tons by 2043. Although carbon emissions are set to increase with increased economic activity, Burkina Faso's carbon emissions come from a very low base. Like many developing countries,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

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## About the authors

Dr Kouassi Yeboua previously worked as a Senior Researcher at AFI, where he led significant ISS studies on the long-term development prospects of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Horn of Africa, Nigeria, Malawi, and Mozambique. His research focuses on development economics, macroeconomics, gender, and economic modeling. He holds a PhD in Economics.

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