



Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso: Conclusion

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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.

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