

Poverty & Equity Brief

Sub-Saharan Africa

Burkina Faso

April 2020

In the past decade, Burkina Faso's economic growth has remained strong. Despite security concerns, GDP growth is estimated at 6.0 percent in 2019. This robust economic growth is expected to have reduced poverty. The share of people living on less than \$1.90 a day at the 2011 Purchasing Power Parity declined rapidly from 55.3 percent in 2009 to 43.7 percent in 2014, and is estimated to have further declined to 36.7 percent in 2019.

Such impressive progress in poverty reduction can be partly explained by rural to urban migration and associated changes in occupational structure. The decline in poverty is also evident in a better distribution of wealth. Between 2009 and 2014, the per capita consumption of the bottom 40 percentile of the population (that is, shared prosperity) grew by 5.84 percent annually, a rate that was more than twice as high as the growth rate of the top 60 percentile. Inequality has also fallen, confirming the trend in shared prosperity. Measured by the Gini index, inequality fell from 39.8 in 2009 to 35.3 in 2014. Higher inequality reduction is observed in rural areas. The decline in the overall inequality can be explained by structural factors (e.g. education) and short-term economic policies.

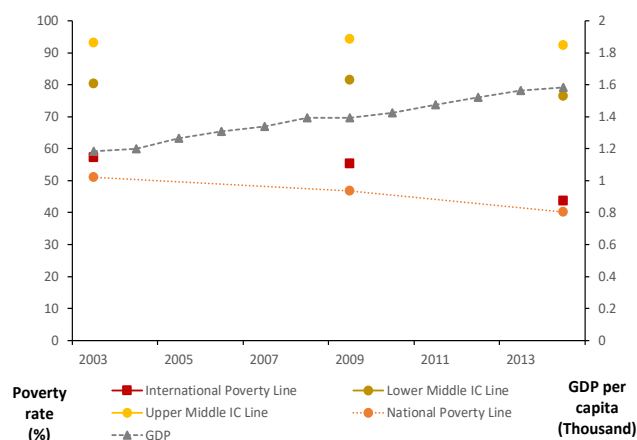
However, the intensifying insecurity in the country has put more people at risk of being displaced and deprived of employment opportunities and access to basic services. Violence against civilians has particularly worsened in 2019 with an average of 30 incidences per month. The number of internally displaced persons in Burkina Faso has reached nearly 300,000 by the end of 2019, triple the number in January.

In addition, as the number of COVID-19 cases rise in Burkina Faso, it will likely have an immediate impact on health outcomes and service delivery for the poor, and long lasting economic and social impacts. The pandemic will expose more people, particularly the poor, to health shocks which have been shown empirically to significantly affect food security. Moreover, the global economic slowdown will negatively affect income of Burkinabe people through a decline in domestic and international demand for agricultural products, especially cotton and cash crops like cashew nuts, compounded by a potential price increase in agricultural input as well as a reduction in remittance flows. The poor will be even more vulnerable because of limited saving capacities and limited access to health and financial services.

POVERTY	Number of Poor (million)	Rate (%)	Period
National Poverty Line	7.1	40.1	2014
International Poverty Line 439.6 in CFA franc (2014) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	7.7	43.7	2014
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 740.4 in CFA franc (2014) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	13.4	76.4	2014
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 1272.5 in CFA franc (2014) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	16.2	92.3	2014
Multidimensional Poverty Measure		74.8	2014
SHARED PROSPERITY			
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent		5.84	2009-2014
INEQUALITY			
Gini Index		35.3	2014
Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth		2.91	2009-2014
GROWTH			
Annualized GDP per capita growth		2.59	2009-2014
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey		2.93	2009-2014
MEDIAN INCOME			
Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita		3.58	2009-2014

Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of February 2020, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

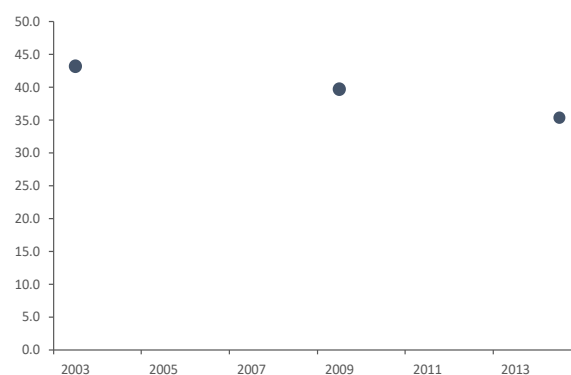
POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2003-2014



Source: World Bank using EMC/SSAPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2003-2014

Gini Index



Source: World Bank using EMC/SSAPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

Distribution among groups: 2014	Lower Middle Income line(%)		Relative group (%)		Multidimensional Poverty Measures (% of people):	2014
	Non-Poor	Poor	Bottom 40	Top 60		
Urban population				N/A	Monetary poverty (Consumption)	
Rural population	15	85	47	53	Daily consumption less than US\$1.90 per person	43.7
Males	24	76	40	60	Education	
Females	23	77	40	60	At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school	58.0
0 to 14 years old	19	81	45	55	No adult has completed primary education	64.7
15 to 64 years old	29	71	35	65	Access to basic infrastructure	
65 and older	20	80	43	57	No access to limited-standard drinking water	20.6
Without education (16+)	20	80	41	59	No access to limited-standard sanitation	63.3
Primary education (16+)	19	81	35	65	No access to electricity	85.2
Secondary education (16+)	50	50	18	82		
Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+)	93	7	N/A*	99		

Source: World Bank using EMC/SSAPOV/GMD

Source: World Bank using EMC/SSAPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The official poverty estimates are based on three nationally representative household surveys in 2003, 2009, and 2014. The methods used to collect consumption data (the building block of poverty measure) vary among all three surveys, therefore making it difficult to compare poverty estimates over time, even after some statistical techniques were applied to adjust the data incomparability. Key differences in the survey designs include: (i) number of food items, (ii) recall period, and (iii) length of survey period.

A new household survey is recently collected in 2019 as part of the World Bank's West Africa Household Survey Harmonization project and the LSMS-ISA project. New poverty estimates are under preparation and are expected to be released in FY20. A second and comparable survey is planned for 2021.

HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the SSAPOV database. SSAPOV is a database of harmonized nationally representative household surveys managed by Sub-Saharan Team for Statistical Development. It contains more than 100 surveys covering 45 out of the 48 countries in the SSA region. The four countries not covered in the database are Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, and Somalia. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.