

Poverty & Equity Brief

Africa Western & Central

Burkina Faso

April 2021

Despite progress made in recent years, poverty remains high in Burkina Faso, with two in five individuals (41.4 percent) living below the national poverty line in 2018. This corresponds to an absolute number of 8.2 million poor individuals, most of which (90 percent) reside in rural areas. The poverty incidence is likewise much higher on average in rural areas (51.1 percent) compared to urban areas (13 percent). There are striking regional disparities in poverty incidence ranging from a low of 5 percent in the Centre Region to a high of 71 percent in the North Region. Such spatial disparities can present a potential source of increasing tensions between poorer and richer areas.

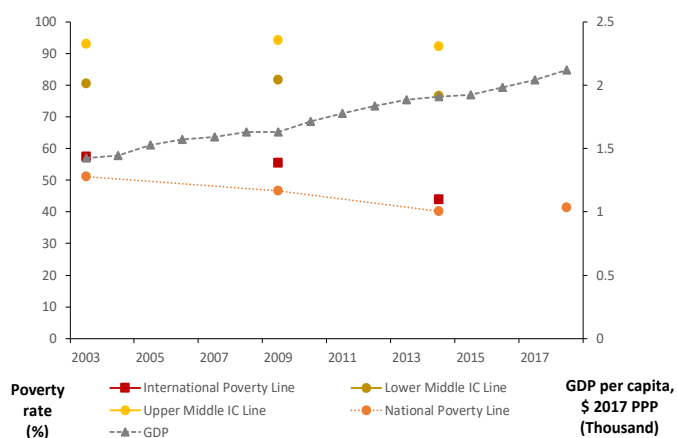
The country is underperforming on non-monetary dimensions of welfare, with limited access to basic social services. Access to basic services is extremely limited, especially for the poor, and there has been little progress over time. For example, in 2018, only one in every five Burkinabè households had access to electricity, compared to nearly one in every two SSA residents. The COVID-19 pandemic and the related economic downturn have eroded progress made on poverty reduction in recent years. Findings of the 2020-21 high frequency survey rounds suggest that the pandemic has negatively impacted economic activities and led to destruction of jobs and economy-wide reduction of incomes and revenues. Most employees, nonfarm businesses owners and farmers have experienced a reduction of income. Closure due to COVID-19 and lack of customers are the main reasons for the lower income of non-farm businesses. Half of farmers report a reduction of farm gate prices. This means the way COVID-19 affects prices along the value chain will mainly harm farmers. Microsimulation results suggest that because of the pandemic's economic impact, an additional 500,000 Burkinabè were pushed into poverty in 2020. By the end of 2021, this number could increase by an additional 200,000.

The intensifying insecurity in the country has put more people (especially the poor and vulnerable) 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 was about one million in July 2020, triple the number in December 2019.

POVERTY	Number of Poor (million)	Rate (%)	Period
National Poverty Line	8.4	41.4	2018
International Poverty Line 441.2 in CFA franc (2014) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	7.7	43.8	2014
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 743.1 in CFA franc (2014) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	13.5	76.7	2014
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 1277.2 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		3.18	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

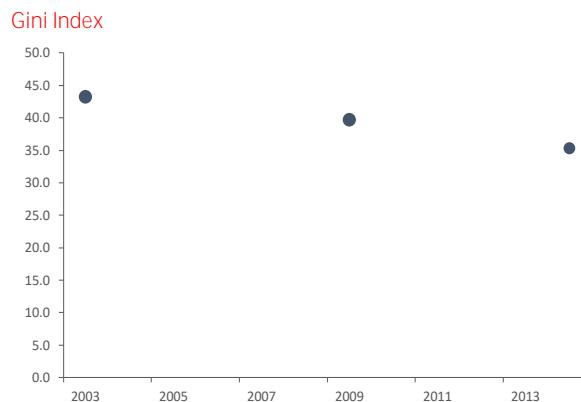
Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of February 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2003-2018



Source: World Bank using EMC/SSAPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2003-2014



Source: World Bank using EMC/SSAPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

	Lower Middle Income line(%)		Relative group (%)		Multidimensional Poverty Measures: (% of population)
	Non-Poor	Poor	Bottom 40	Top 60	
Urban population				N/A	Monetary poverty
Rural population				N/A	Daily income/consumption less than US\$1.90 per person
Males				N/A	
Females				N/A	Education
0 to 14 years old				N/A	At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school
15 to 64 years old				N/A	No adult has completed primary education
65 and older				N/A	
Without education (16+)				N/A	Access to basic infrastructure
Primary education (16+)				N/A	No access to limited-standard drinking water
Secondary education (16+)				N/A	No access to limited-standard sanitation
Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+)				N/A	No access to electricity

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 the enquête harmonisée sur les conditions de vie des ménages (EHCVM) conducted in 2018/2019. The EHCVM survey was implemented as part of the World Bank's West Africa Household Survey Harmonization project and the LSMS-ISA project. The method used to collect consumption data (the building block of poverty measure) was different from the one used in previous surveys, therefore making it difficult to compare poverty estimates over time. The World Bank is exploring how advanced statistical techniques can be applied to handle the data incomparability issues. Key differences in the survey designs include: (i) focus on quantities consumed, (ii) number of food items, (iii) recall period, and (iv) length of survey period.

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 three 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.