



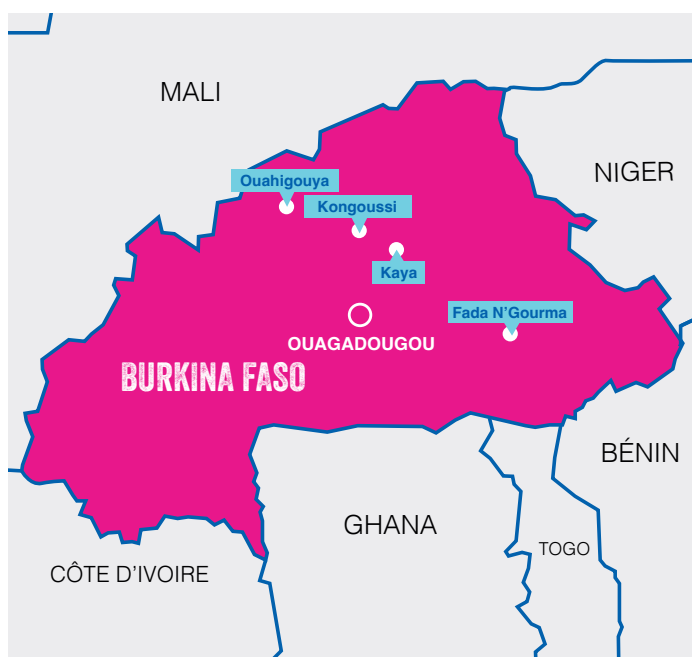
# CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE IN BURKINA FASO

## CVA FEASIBILITY STUDY KEY FINDINGS



## METHODOLOGY

The study conducted by Plan International in May 2022 in Burkina Faso adopted a mix of both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to gather data across the communities in Ouahigouya, Kongoussi, Fada N’Gourma and Kaya municipalities. A total of 28 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) was undertaken with host communities and IDPs for adolescent girls and boys 12 to 18 years, women and men 24 to 45 years and above to understand their priority needs and preferences. A total of 72 individual interviews with traders and vendors were conducted in the 4 markets. 16 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) drawn from representations of both men and women from IDPs and host communities were conducted with relevant staff of partner organizations, local leaders, community members, Financial Service Providers (FSPs), staff of government ministries and departments, managers, actors, and stakeholders in aspects relevant to Plan International’ strategic focus in Burkina Faso.







## OBJECTIVES

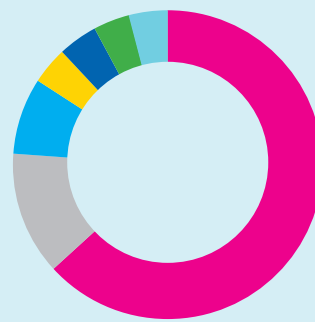
The objective of the study was to assess the feasibility of the use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) and market-based modalities to meet the emergency needs with respect to Food Security, Protection, Education, and Livelihoods of the affected communities in Burkina Faso specifically in Ouahigouya, Fada N’Gourma, Kaya, and Kongoussi.



## KEY FINDINGS

### Main issues faced by communities

- 63% of the FGDs participants mentioned food security/hunger.
- 13% of the FGDs participants, which are mostly IDPs, identified insecurity as the main issue which prompted them to leave everything for fear of their lives.
- Shelter for the IDPs, health especially for children, lack opportunity for work, water and powerlessness for IDPs relying solely from the host communities were among the issues identified by the FGDs participants.



- Lack of food (63%)
- Insecurity (13%)
- Lack of water (8%)
- Powerlessness (4%)
- Lack of housing (4%)
- Health problems (4%)
- Menstrual hygiene problems (4%)



## Education

### Low participation and high drop-out rates in primary and secondary education:

Spots checks and interviews with school staff, FGDs, and KIIs indicated **INCREASED SCHOOL DROPOUTS AND LOW ENROLMENT RATES** for both IDPs and host communities due to the lack of finance for school fees, food insecurity, insecurity leading to displacement, and long-distance walks to the schools.

Results from the Provincial Directorate of National Education of Yatenga indicate that **IN TITAO DISTRICT, THERE WERE ONLY 44 FUNCTIONAL SCHOOLS OUT OF 85 SCHOOLS**. On average, there was an influx of students in schools due to the displacement caused by insecurity in at least 6 schools, which reported high numbers of new students with **A 100% INCREASE FROM 800 TO 1,600** from the start of the crisis.

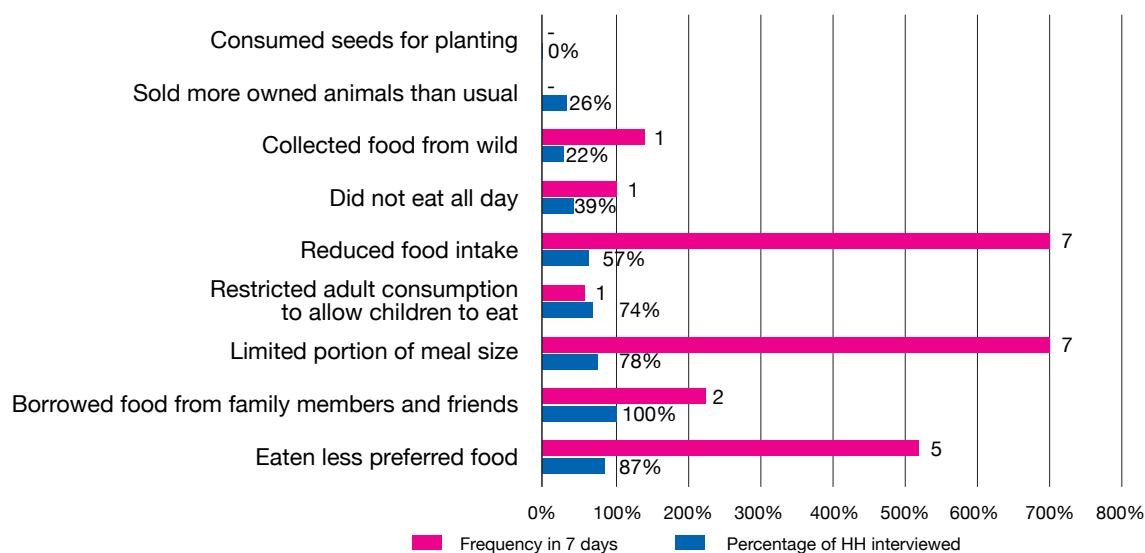




## Food security

The FGDs highlighted the negative coping mechanisms adopted by households (HHs) when faced with food insecurity.

### Coping strategies adopted by households in the last 7 days



**100% OF THE HHs INTERVIEWED BORROWED FOOD ITEMS** from relatives and friends for at least 2 days in the last 7 days.

At least **87% CONSUMED LESS PREFERRED FOOD** for 5 days in the last 7 days.

**78% LIMITED PORTIONS** of their meals every day in the last 7 days.

About **57% REDUCED THEIR FOOD INTAKE ALMOST EVERY DAY.**

About **39% DID NOT EAT ALL DAY** in at least 1 day in the last 7 days.

26% of the HHs disposed of productive assets including small ruminants to meet their basic needs. However, at least 34% of the participants who fled from their homes mentioned that their **PRODUCTIVE ASSETS WERE LEFT AND LOOTED BY ARMED GROUPS.**







## Child protection

FGDs results from both the IDPs and host communities indicated **CHILD LABOR AS THE GREATEST PROTECTION CONCERN** for the children affecting mostly boys who have dropped out of school due to financial difficulties and taking up manual jobs to earn income and support their families. This has further exposed them to risks of being **RECRUITED AS CHILD SOLDIERS** by non-state armed groups, physical abuse, and working in the mines which may cause other health and mental related risks.

The majority of the girls reported **TRAUMA AND STRESSFUL SITUATIONS FROM EARLY MARRIAGES AND FORCED CHILD LABOR** due to the hard-economic situations. This has also resulted in reduced enrolment, school attendance, and overall academic performance.



## Wash

34.20% of the women and 14.30% of girls reported **DIFFICULTIES IN MANAGING THEIR MENSTRUAL HEALTH**. 7.14% of the IDPs and 92.85% of the host communities pointed out that women and girls don't have access to private facilities to change pads, wash and dry them, and will prefer to use recommended hygienic sanitary pads.

**63% OF THE RESPONDENTS USE LATRINES ONLY DURING THE DAY** since this is impossible for them at night due to security issues, and 67% practice open defecation.

**LATRINES ARE FULL, AND SOME ARE 2KM FROM THEIR RESIDENCES**. Respondents reported that they need latrines closer to them and water points to wash the latrines including septic tanks. They also need wheelbarrows, shovels, and gloves to clean them.





## MARKET SYSTEM AND FUNCTIONALITY

The feasibility study assessed the market functionality and availability of basic commodities based on the needs of the communities.

- **ALL THE 4 MARKETS ASSESSED WERE FULLY FUNCTIONAL** and integrated with a robust supply chain system in place. More than 75% of the shops were well stocked and could restock within 2 days based on increased demand.
- **ALL THE 70 TRADERS EXPRESSED THEIR WILLINGNESS** to participate in CVA interventions. 34% were aware and had voucher modality experience from some peer agencies.
- **30% HAVE LARGE STORAGE FACILITIES** that can supply markets for up to a month and this is supplemented by the constant supply from primary markets, other regional markets from the neighbouring countries, and presence of large wholesalers in the markets.



## FINANCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Results from the feasibility study identified several Banks and FSPs operating and available in Burkina Faso. The information available from the Cash Working Group (CWG), and KIIs found the following FSPs:
  - Mobil telecommunications companies: Orange money WIZALL and Moov.
  - Microfinance Finance institutions: MICROFI, Graine SARL, Baitoul Mall, CODEC and Coris money.
  - Commercial Banks: many commercial banks are operational including Ecobank, Bank of Africa, Coris Banque, Banque Atlantique, Caisse Populaire, Pacific Finance, Caisse Populaire and ACEP.
- Engagement of several FSPs would help to cover all the CVA needs in the program areas based on the appropriateness of the services offered against the local context and selected delivery mechanisms.







## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Based on the findings drawn from the assessment and CWG data, the report recommends the **IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED CASH AND VOUCHER-BASED INTERVENTIONS** in the four study locations.
- Multi-purpose Cash Assistance for IDPs and host communities: Promotion of the **GRADUATION APPROACH MODEL**, targeting the most vulnerable communities through cash-based assistance, training, economic empowerment, financial literacy training, entrepreneurship, and saving skills for a defined period of time.
- **COMMODITY VOUCHER** is recommended for education, dignity kits, and livelihoods start-up grants/kits. The training fees/allowance should be paid directly to the trainers based on attendance.
- **CASH FOR WORK** should be undertaken for the rehabilitation of public assets such as schools, cleaning, and rehabilitation of markets, especially for IDPs programs and public infrastructure.
- **FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR ASSETS (FFA)** project for the most vulnerable host communities and IDPs.
- Support women to acquire dignity kits and SHRH education **THROUGH THE MARKET-BASED APPROACHES**.
- **AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT** through a market-based approach for seeds, tools, inputs, training, and strengthening of familial farming in all the program sites.
- Support for participatory and sustainable **NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE-ADAPTED FARMING** - as a result of climate changes most farmers tend to stick to the old farming systems which are no longer productive.
- **CASH FOR TRAINING (AGRICULTURE)**: Participants who are interested in on-farm activities (such as cultivation, management, insects and pests' control, irrigation, seed storage, market linkage, and post-harvest technology) should be trained by the certified agriculture technicians. However, when they should also be supported with an improved variety of seeds such as vegetable seeds, they need to distribute in kind as they are not available in the local markets.
- **RESILIENCE AND SELF-RELIANCE PROGRAM-BASED APPROACH**: this will break the dependency syndrome and ensure communities transition from emergency aid to sustainable livelihoods after the project phase-out.
- Multipurpose unconditional cash transfer for **PREGNANT AND LACTATING WOMEN AND CHILDREN UNDER 5**.
- Support to **LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES** through capacity building, inputs, and cash transfer with the possibility to implement the FFA approach depending on assessments' results.
- **FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS** as a component of nutrition, education, and protection projects.
- Improvement of the nutritional status of children and pregnant women through mobile clinics and awareness-raising. The **POSITIVE DEVIANCE HEALTH APPROACH** may be introduced in all the programming sites in Burkina Faso.
- **SECURITY SITUATION AND GUIDANCE** should be taken into account, and appropriate procedures to ensure staff and projects participants' security should be implemented.
- It is recommended to have a **DEDICATED CVA SPECIALIST** in the country of implementation to ensure sustained technical support and grow the CVA portfolio of the organization.



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