

Advancing resilience and sustainability in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

GCCED Fragile States Portfolio 2026

Burkina Faso — Climate Stress and Food Systems

Snapshot: Population ~23 million | GDP per capita ~US\$882 | Fragility context: Fragile Sahelian state | Region: Sahel

Integrated Context

Burkina Faso is on the frontline of the Sahel's intensifying climate crisis, where environmental stress and fragility are increasingly interlinked. Recurrent droughts, erratic rainfall patterns, and accelerating land degradation are placing sustained pressure on already vulnerable rural livelihoods. With agriculture predominantly rain-fed, even modest shifts in climate conditions can significantly disrupt food production, income stability, and local economies.

These challenges are compounded by ongoing insecurity and displacement, which have disrupted farming systems, limited access to productive land, and strained already fragile public services. As a result, communities are navigating overlapping risks—responding to immediate food needs while attempting to adapt to long-term environmental change. Building resilience in this context requires integrated approaches that connect sustainable agriculture, ecosystem restoration, and locally grounded governance systems.

Key Climate and Environmental Challenges

- Increasing rainfall variability and recurrent drought
- Soil degradation and advancing desertification
- Rising food insecurity and livelihood vulnerability
- Limited institutional capacity for climate governance and response

GCCED Engagement Priorities

- Sustainable land restoration and soil regeneration
- Climate-resilient and diversified agriculture
- Ecosystem-based adaptation at the community level
- Strengthening local governance and climate response systems

Strategic Note

In Burkina Faso, resilience is closely tied to the health of ecosystems and the stability of food systems. Effective pathways forward require moving beyond short-term interventions toward sustained investments in land restoration, community capacity, and locally led adaptation. Aligning these efforts with national strategies and regional Sahel initiatives will be essential to achieving durable and inclusive resilience outcomes.

SDG Alignment: 2 • 13 • 15