

# Burkina Faso



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31%

Population below international poverty line

€53

per month

National minimum wage

€160

per month

Rural living income

73%

Agricultural workforce

18%

Agriculture share of GDP

4

high

Risk to workers' rights

## Context

Burkina Faso has a population of 22<sup>[1]</sup> million people, with 31%<sup>[2]</sup> of the population residing in urban areas and 69%<sup>[3]</sup> living in rural regions. The country is heavily dependent on the agricultural sector, as 73%<sup>[4]</sup> of the working population of Burkina Faso is employed by the sector to some degree.<sup>[5]</sup> The agricultural sector accounts for 18% of the nation's GDP.<sup>[6]</sup>

Agriculture in Burkina Faso is largely subsistence based and consists of a small variety of crops and livestock. The agricultural sector is characterised by low productivity rates that have been exacerbated by climate change due to increased drought and desertification.<sup>[7]</sup> National improvements in agriculture have reduced the likelihood of famine, however, roughly 20% of the population of Burkina Faso are food insecure,<sup>[8]</sup> with nearly 44% of the population living below the international poverty line of \$1.9 per day.<sup>[9]</sup>

The top produced commodities in Burkina Faso are sorghum, maize, millet, cotton seed and dry cow peas.<sup>[10]</sup> Similarly, Burkina Faso's top export commodities in terms of quantity are cotton lint, sheanuts, cashew nuts, sesame seeds and cottonseed cake.<sup>[11]</sup>



## Wages

### Minimum wage

The national minimum wage in Burkina Faso is 34,664 West African CFA franc (52 EUR) per month.<sup>[12]</sup> This value remains the same since 2012. This government mandated minimum wage is less than the poverty income level and does not apply to informal employment or subsistence agriculture. Additionally, it is common for employers to pay their employees less than minimum wage. Many workers supplement their income through subsistence agriculture, the informal sector, or extended family.<sup>[13]</sup>

### Living Income

The **Global Living Wage Coalition** has developed a Living Income Reference Value study for rural Burkina Faso based on the Anker methodology.

The living income living wages and living incomes for rural and urban areas within each country and should not replace countries where a Anker benchmark is available. They are not location-specific, and so are not represe">reference value for rural Burkina Faso is 105,265 West African CFA franc (160 EUR) per month for a typical rural family. This living income reference value is roughly twice the income of a typical rural family earning a minimum wage. Nonetheless, it is expected that living income gaps vary largely across Burkina Faso. In rural Burkina Faso, poverty levels are three times higher than in urban areas. Rural farming households, which depend mainly on agriculture, have the highest poverty rate in the country.<sup>[14]</sup>

## What's happening

### RESOURCE

#### [Living Income Reference Value, rural Burkina Faso](#)

Living income reference value estimate for rural Burkina Faso, based on a typical rural family. Global Living Wage Coalition.

### RESOURCE

#### [Living wage for mango farmers in Burkina Faso](#)

Company-driven living wage gap assessment for an organic mango exporter in Burkina Faso. Eosta, Nature & More, 2020.

## RESOURCE

### The shea nut industry & women's empowerment

Report on the economic and social resilience of women in the shea nut industry. FAO, 2017.

## RESOURCE

### Economic importance of cotton in Burkina Faso

Report on the role cotton production has played in economic development and poverty reduction in Burkina Faso. FAO, 2017.

## Footnotes

1. World Bank. (2021). <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=BF>
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8. USAID (2020). <https://www.usaid.gov/burkina-faso/agriculture-and-food-security>
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10. FAOSTAT (2019). [http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#rankings/commodities\\_by\\_country](http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#rankings/commodities_by_country)
11. FAOSTAT (2019). [http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#rankings/commodities\\_by\\_country\\_exports](http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#rankings/commodities_by_country_exports)
12. ILO. (2018). [https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer48/?lang=en&segment=indicator&id=EAR\\_INEE\\_NOC\\_NB\\_A](https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer48/?lang=en&segment=indicator&id=EAR_INEE_NOC_NB_A)
13. U.S. Department of State. (2019). <https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/burkina-faso/>
14. Global Living Wage Coalition. (2022). Anker Living Income Reference Value: Rural Burkina Faso 2020. <https://www.globallivingwage.org/living-income-reference-value%e2%81%a0-rural-burkina-faso/>