

BURKINA FASO

Burkina Faso remains one of the poorest countries in the world. In 2015, more than 55% of its 18 million people lived below the national poverty line, and the country ranks 185th out of 188 countries on the UNDP's 2016 Human Development Index. Burkina Faso's ranking on the UNDP Gender Development Index has deteriorated in recent years, placing the country 146th out of 159 countries assessed in 2015.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) considers Burkina Faso to be in the group of fragile countries. Burkina Faso achieved only modest results with respect to the UN Millennium Development Goals. However, it has made significant progress in basic education, access to safe drinking water and the struggle against HIV/AIDS.

For Canada, Burkina Faso is an important country for international development. Canada's development priorities in Burkina Faso are to support the Burkina Faso National Plan for Social and Economic Development 2016-2020. This plan's goal is to:

- develop the human capital of the country;
- reform institutions and administration; and
- revitalize the sectors driving the economy and employment.

These pillars are consistent with Canada's programming. It aims to help protect and maintain human dignity, among other things, through better access to quality education for girls and by strengthening governance of the education sector. Canadian investments are also helping to create growth that works for everyone. As well, investments are supporting income-generating activities for the most vulnerable populations, including women, and improving their access to energy and water.



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