

# Country Disease Outlook

## Burkina Faso

August 2023



World Health  
Organization

African Region

### Background

Burkina Faso is a landlocked country in West Africa. It is bordered by Benin, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, and Togo. It is a low-income country with a GDP per capita of UD\$ 893 (2021) and has a population of 22.1 million (2021).

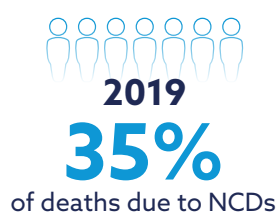
### Key points

- ◆ Burkina Faso improved its child survival rates between 2015 and 2021, however it is far from meeting the SDG targets for neonatal or under-five mortality rates.
- ◆ Burkina Faso has a high burden of communicable and non-communicable disease (NCDs), with the latter making up 35% of deaths in 2019.
- ◆ Burkina Faso had 74,340 people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021 and has only achieved one of the three 95-95-95 goals for HIV in 2021.
- ◆ Burkina Faso is endemic for four of the five NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA). In 2020, 100% of the 1.2 million targeted were reached with MDA.
- ◆ Burkina Faso has achieved fairly high vaccination coverage rates, reaching 91% with the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine and 88% with the first dose of measles-containing vaccine in 2021. However, the country has experienced large outbreaks of measles and mumps in recent years underscoring the importance of strengthening its routine immunization programme and implementing catch-up strategies for vaccination to reach the under-immunized and zero-dose children.

**UHC/CN**

Universal Health Coverage/Communicable  
and Non-communicable Diseases  
WHO Regional Office for Africa





## Broad disease outlook

The country has a high burden of both communicable (such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS) and non-communicable diseases (such as cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease, cancer and diabetes). The latter were estimated to have caused 35% of deaths in 2019.

## Communicable diseases

### Malaria

Malaria remains a public health problem in Burkina Faso with an estimated 12.23 million cases (at an incidence rate of 569 cases per 1000 population) in 2021, resulting in 43,555 deaths. While the malaria incidence rate targets set by the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria were met in 2016-17, the rate did not continue to fall in line with the targets and the country is now off track with the gap widening each year as the incidence rate has not declined.

### Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS

The mortality rate of TB cases (all forms, excluding HIV coinfection) has declined since 2015, decreasing from 9.0 to 6.4 per 100,000 population in 2021. The TB mortality rate among HIV-positive people has fallen from 1.7 to 0.78 per 100,000 population, in the same period.

The country has achieved one of the three 95-95-95 goals:

- ▲ 89% of people living with HIV that know their status.
- ▲ 96% of people living with HIV who know their status are on treatment.
- ▲ There is limited data on the number of people living with HIV and on treatment who are virally suppressed.

Approximately 74,340 people were receiving antiretroviral treatment in 2021.

### Neglected tropical diseases

Burkina Faso is endemic for four of the five NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA), namely lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis. In 2020, 100% of the 1.2 million people targeted were reached with MDA. Soil-transmitted helminths and trachoma occur at levels below WHO threshold for preventive chemotherapy.

Other notable NTDs that remain endemic are human Africa trypanosomiasis (*gambiense*), leishmaniasis (cutaneous), leprosy and cysticercosis, and snake-bite envenomation and dengue.

## Non-communicable diseases

NCDs are a significant health problem in Burkina Faso. The age-standardised mortality rate across four major NCDs (cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease, cancer and diabetes) was 782 per 100,000 in males and 574 in females in 2021.

Burkina Faso has implemented initial efforts on the NCD progress indicators related to NCD policy and plan, NCD guidelines, tobacco taxes, tobacco smoke free/pollution, tobacco health warnings and alcohol taxes, however progress has been more limited on tobacco media campaigns, alcohol advertising restrictions, salt policies, trans fats policies, marketing to children and physical activity guidelines.

## Childhood Immunization

Burkina Faso's coverage rates of vaccination in children have historically been fairly high. In 2021, the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine was 91%, while the measles vaccination coverage for the first dose was 88%. Burkina Faso has experienced large outbreaks of measles and mumps in recent years.

In 2021, there were an estimated 67,871 under-immunised children and 37,706 zero-dose children. Burkina Faso should consider the implementation of appropriate catch-up vaccination strategies to protect these populations from vaccine-preventable diseases and reduce the probability of outbreaks in the future

## Child survival

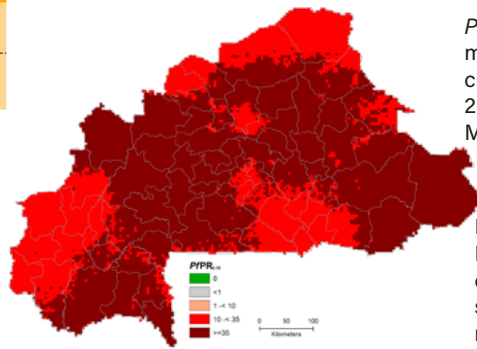
Based on the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) estimates, the under-5 mortality rate has fallen from 101 to 83 per 1,000 live births between 2015 and 2021, remaining well above the SDG target of 25 per 1,000 live births. Similarly, the neonatal mortality rate decreased from 28 to 25 per 1,000 live births in the same period, exceeding the SDG target of 12.



**MALARIA**

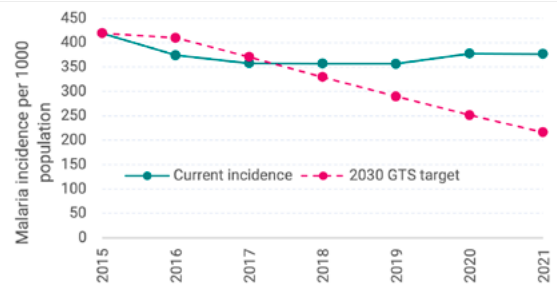
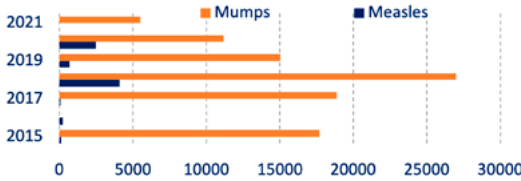
POPULATION AT RISK IN 2022	TOTAL MALARIA CASES IN 2021	TOTAL MALARIA DEATHS IN 2021
<b>22.1 million</b>	<b>8.3 million</b>	<b>18,976</b>

ITN use in children under five years 60.1% and 54.4% use of ACTs among those with fever for whom care was sought and received a finger or heel prick

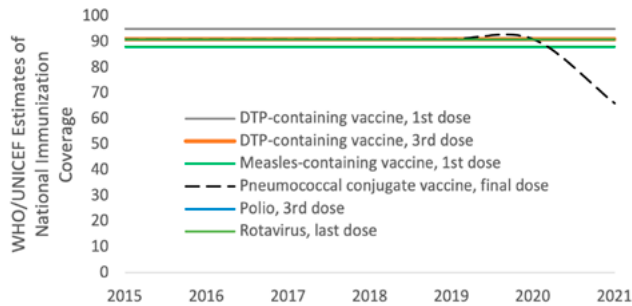


*Plasmodium falciparum* malaria prevalence in children in Burkina Faso in 2020. Estimates from the Malaria Atlas project

**Malaria incidence in Burkina Faso since 2015 compared to GTS targets shows that Burkina Faso reversed its initial gains and is now off-track**



**EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION IN CHILDREN**



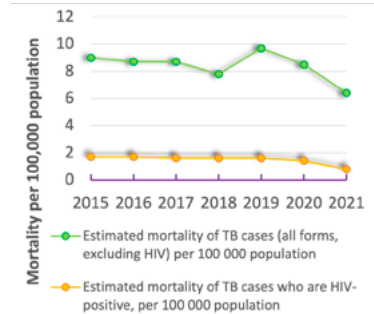
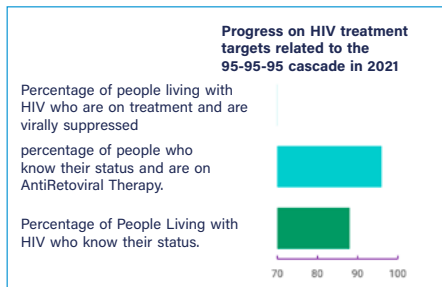
**Zero dose 37,706**      **Under-immunized 67,871**

WUENIC estimates that vaccination coverage has remained relatively high although Burkina Faso has conducted a recent national community survey.

Mumps is a major public health problem in Burkina Faso although cases of measles are also reported.

**HIV AND TUBERCULOSIS**

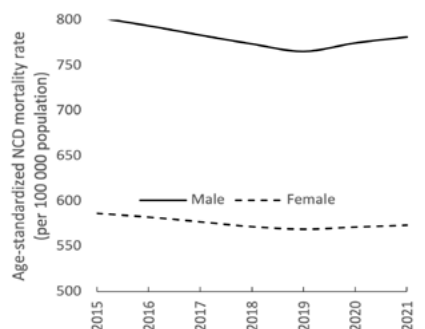
- 74,340** people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021
  - 76%** Treatment success rate for HIV-positive TB cases
  - 40%** of children (aged < 5 years) household contacts of bacteriologically-confirmed TB cases on preventive treatment
- 8.2%** Domestic funding for TB  
**53%** Domestic funding for HIV



- Indicator 1 - Targets
- Indicator 2 - CRV Mortality
- Indicator 3 - Surveys
- Indicator 4 - NCD policy and Plan
- Indicator 5A - Tobacco taxes
- Indicator 5B - Tobacco smoke free/polution
- Indicator 5C - Tobacco health warning
- Indicator 5D - Tobacco advertising ban
- Indicator 5E - Tobacco media campaign
- Indicator 6A - Alcohol availability
- Indicator 6B - Alcohol advertising restrictions
- Indicator 6C - Alcohol taxes
- Indicator 7A - Salt policies
- Indicator 7B - Trans fats policies
- Indicator 7C - Marketing to children
- Indicator 8 - Physical activity awareness
- Indicator 9 - NCD guidelines

**NCD PROGRESS INDICATORS**

- Achieved
- Partially achieved
- Not achieved/Unknown



**NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES**

- Endemic NTDS requiring Preventive Chemotherapy (PC)**
- Lymphatic filariasis
  - Schistosomiasis
  - Soil-transmitted helminthiasis
  - Trachoma
  - Onchocerciasis

**PC-NTDs treatment in 2020**  
1.2 million targeted for MDA  
1.2 Million treated with MDA

**OTHER MAJOR NTDs**

- Leishmaniasis (cutaneous)
- Snakebite envenomation
- Dengue and cysticercosis
- Leprosy