

THE FUTURE OF POVERTY IN BURKINA FASO

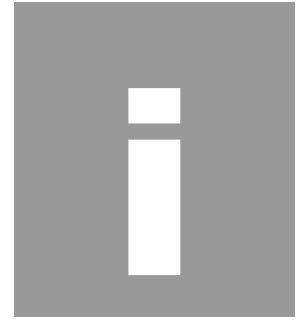
Relative to Region-level Characteristics to 2025

Framework Foresight Method

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The Future of Poverty in Burkina Faso - 2025

Transformation “is the change from a level of human existence that is less than that envisioned by our creator, to one in which a person is fully human and free to move to a state of wholeness in harmony with God and with every aspect of his/her environment.”¹

Executive Summary

The United National Development Programme (UNDP) comes alongside of countries all over the world for the simultaneous purpose of reducing poverty and achieving sustainable development, with the aim of transformational change taking place so that people experience improvements in their lives that’s as real as the dedication and determination committed development practitioners share for seeing this happen. That the UNDP is concerned with addressing the multidimensional nature of poverty through an integrated approach for achieving sustainable development is the reason why it was selected as the “client” for this student project about the future of poverty in Burkina Faso relative to region-level characteristics—it’s multidimensional poverty-reduction approach is shared by the student.

Presently, the interconnected issues of inequity and exclusion, poor infrastructure, weak governance, climate change impacts and others are driving Burkina towards an uncertain future in which poverty—its reduction, increase or constancy—will play a prominent role. While some indicators have pointed to a seemingly decreasing rate of poverty in the country, this decrease is taking place at a very slow rate. Nevertheless, what neither the country of Burkina, the UNDP nor other stakeholders want to see happen is a reversal of this downward poverty trend; a rise in poverty driven by disadvantageous changes relative to these interconnected issues. What would be worse than this is being unprepared for the possibility.

This foresight project, guided by the Framework Foresight Method, presents a baseline future view and a possible alternative future view of poverty in Burkina Faso in 2025, as influenced by historical events, current trends and anticipated changes, potential implications of this future view and insights as to what the UNDP should consider in working alongside of Burkina Faso to bring about a more preferable future than its baseline future.



The Framework Forecast Method

“Give me a lever long enough . . . and single-handed I can move the world!”²

The Framework Foresight Method was developed by the University of Houston as a systematic learning guide for student-oriented foresight projects (Hines & Bishop, 2013). Often referred to as *framework forecasting*, this framework approach also is being adopted by foresight consultants and organizations alike desiring an integrated forecasting, planning and implementation process for dealing with strategic issues, identifying new product or service offerings, re-envisioning design or determining policy alternatives in response to change on the horizon (Hines & Bishop, 2015). Providing a “start-to-finish future view” of any domain topic of interest and its potential implications, the framework classifies foresight information according to a blueprint of suggested steps, and arranges that information in an easy-to-follow, logical flow of deliverables for carrying out six main activities of foresight projects—framing, scanning, forecasting, visioning, planning and acting (Hines & Bishop, 2013, p. 31). However, its modular approach allows for flexibility in that other foresight methods or techniques may be substituted for those included in the framework, or added as supplementary steps (Hines & Bishop, 2015). The simplicity of the framework is its template design for selecting and summarizing the best information in the categories of each step with respect to forces of change (Hines & Bishop, 2015). The outcome is the production of a baseline future as well as alternative futures and the implications of each, which then are used for planning purposes, with the ultimate goal being stimulation towards action (Hines & Bishop, 2013).

The following six steps of the framework forecast method were used for this foresight project:

1. Domain description (framing)
2. Current assessment (scanning)
3. Baseline future (forecasting)
4. Alternative futures (forecasting)
5. Implications analysis (visioning)
6. Options: issues or opportunities (planning recommendations)

In addition to these six steps, this foresight project included a questionnaire, the analysis of which provided supplementary information for crafting plausible alternative futures. As this is a student project, it does not include the sixth foresight activity—acting, as influenced by leading indicators that serve as a “set of precursor events or statistics” as to which future, the baseline or an alternative, may be unfolding as the long-term future is resolved as a singular present (Hines & Bishop, 2013, p. 48). However, it is hoped that what is presented here will provide useful insights for the UNDP and other stakeholders in working towards the sustainable development of low-income countries characterized by extreme poverty.



Project Client – The UNDP

“Sustainable community development instills a sense of purpose and a sense of belonging that are defined and maintained by a local community within its environmental context by integrating all aspects of society in working towards a dynamic balance of sustainable outcomes.”³

“The UNDP works in some 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. [It] helps countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities and build resilience in order to sustain development results.

Inclusive growth, better services, environmental sustainability, good governance, and security are fundamental to development progress. [The UNDP] offers expertise in development thinking and practice, and [the organization’s] decades of experience at country level, to support countries to meet their development aspirations and to bring the voices of the world’s peoples into deliberations.”⁴

“[It’s] goal is to strengthen capabilities and opportunities to reduce poverty and marginalization – focusing on the most vulnerable and excluded population groups – in ways that are sustainable from economic, social and environmental standpoints.”⁵



Source: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development->



Domain Description

“AIDS is a huge problem, but many Africans think that hunger and poverty are even more important than AIDS for their families and communities. Actually, all three problems are linked, so it is difficult to deal with one if the others are ignored.”⁶



Domain definition

The United Nations and The World Bank are among a number of stakeholders that alert the international community to the need of antipoverty strategies for reducing poverty all over the world. Poverty reduction in developing or low-income countries is guided by 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) aimed at reducing by half “poverty, hunger and disease” affecting the lives of billions of people (UNDP: Investing in Development . . . , 2005). However, Haughton and Chandler (2009) assert that an understanding of the fundamental causes of poverty is necessary for successfully defining an anti-poverty strategy (Haughton & Chandler, 2009). They point to household-, community- and region-level characteristics as key causes of poverty. We consider changes impacting the future of poverty in Burkina Faso (Burkina) relative to region-level characteristics.

Geographic scope and time horizon

Burkina Faso, West Africa, 2025

Domain Map Boundaries

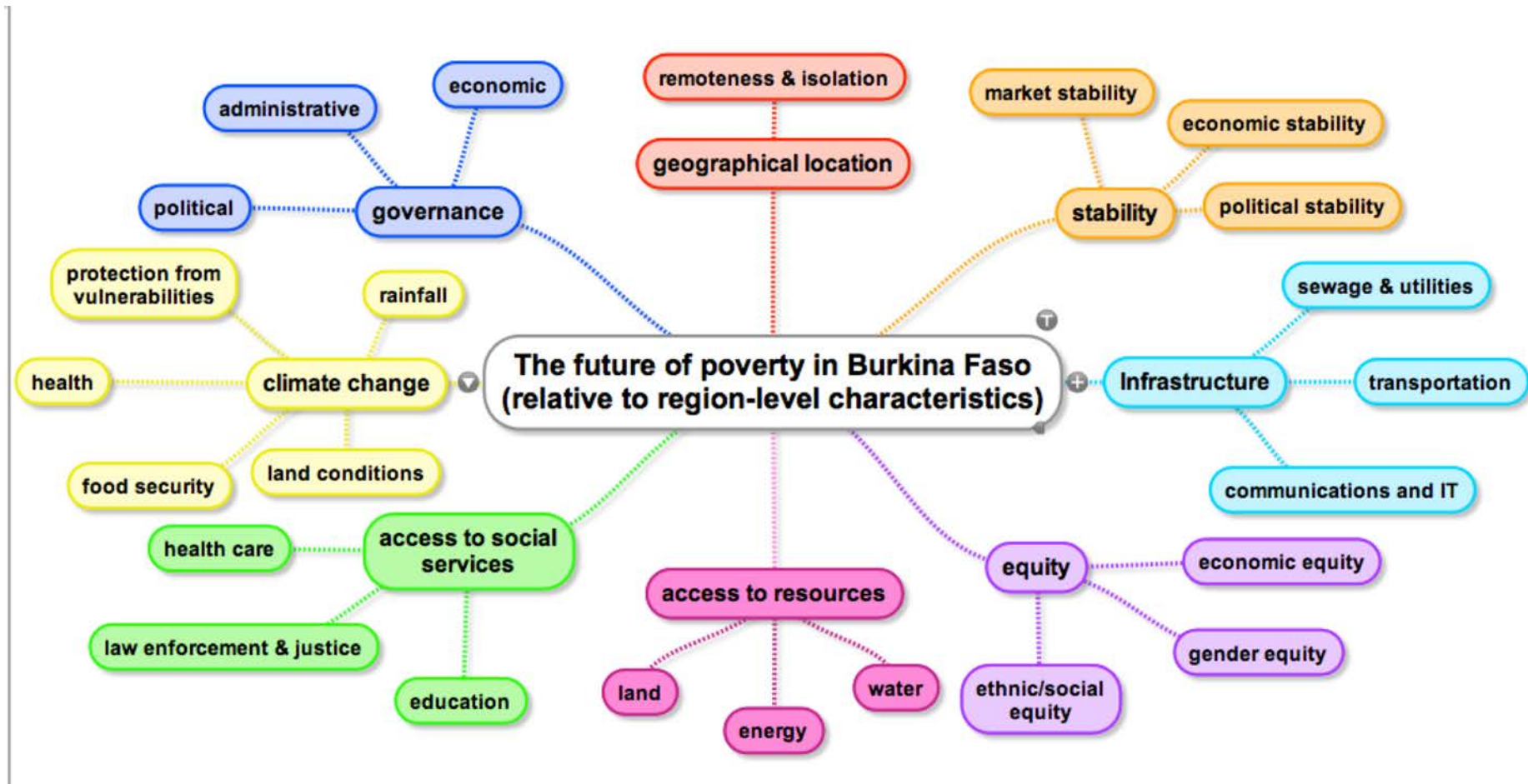
What’s in: Region-level characteristics---geographic location, stability, infrastructure, equity, access to resources, access to public and social services, climate conditions, and governance.

What’s out: individual/household-level and community-level characteristics.

Key issues or questions

- What is the future of poverty in Burkina Faso, given region-level indicators of poverty?
- What are some implications of the future of poverty in Burkina with respect to long-term sustainable development and the reduction of poverty?
- What poverty-reducing strategies should be prioritized in order to bring about the desired long-term future for Burkina?

Domain Map



2

Current Assessment

“What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another.”



Current Conditions

Burkina Faso (Burkina) is a landlocked West African country situated in the Sahelian region and bordered by Mali, Niger, Benin, Togo, Ghana and Cote d’Ivoire. A former French protectorate called the Republic of Upper Volta, the country was later renamed using the word *Burkina* from the native language Mòoré, which means “men of integrity”, and the word *Faso* from the native language Dioula, which means “fatherland” (IBP Inc, 2013, p. 11). Thus, *Burkina Faso* is translated as “the country of the people of integrity” or “the land of honest people” (p. 11).



As of September 6, 2016 Burkina’s population is estimated to be 18.7 million people, which represents a yearly growth rate of 2.92%

Source:

<https://wgmka.wikispaces.com/West+Coast+Countries?responseTok>

www.worldometers.info/world-population/burkina-faso-population). Eighty-five percent of Burkina’s population relies on natural resources for securing basic necessities—food, water, shelter and clothing (UNEP, 2015). Natural resources found in the country include “manganese (used in stainless steel), limestone, marble, pumice and salt” (<http://www.awf.org/country/burkina-faso>).

Burkina’s economy is supported by agriculture, livestock farming, forestry, fishery and “the exploitation of natural resources” (FAPDA-FAO, 2014, p. 1), contributing to an estimated 31.5 percent of the country’s GDP (UNEP, 2015), which in 2013 was \$1,152 (UNDP, 2015). The United Nations Environment Programme

(UNEP, 2015) believes that the exploitation of natural resources in Burkina is crucial for promoting sustainable development, making the natural resource sector of vital importance to the country's ongoing development. Small-scale farms, generally less than 5 hectares in size, dominate the agriculture sector, producing maize, millet, sorghum, rice, groundnuts (peanuts), sesame seeds, beans, sweet potatoes and cotton (FAPDA-FAO, 2014; <http://www.our-africa.org/burkina-faso/climate-agriculture>).

For decades Burkina's main commodity export was cotton, which contributed to 60 percent of the country's total export revenues prior to 2012 (FAPDA-FAO, 2014). However, with the onset of a gold mining boom—Burkina is said to be “Africa's fourth largest gold producer in Sub-Saharan Africa” (<http://www.resourcegovernance.org/our-work/country/burkina-faso>)—cotton now contributes to “less than 15 percent of export revenues” (FAPDA-FAO, 2014, p. 1). Despite the boom in gold mining, Burkina is recognized as “one of the leading cotton producers and exporters in Africa” (p. 1).

Burkina's economy was characterized by an average annual growth rate of 6%; however, the growth rate slowed to 4% two years ago, perhaps due to “the significant and persistent fall in the prices of gold and cotton (27% and 8%, respectively), the decline in cereal production and the political crisis of 2014”. This has affected public finances, reflected as a “decline in investments and public revenue”, as well as a “wait-and-see attitude adopted by private investors” after the 2014 ousting of the country's former President of 27 years, Blaise Compaoré (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/burkinafaso/overview>).

Following the ousting of Former President Compaoré in 2014, there have been increased efforts towards strengthening democracy and the law relative to decentralization, political party activities, revitalization of legislation, judiciary reforms, the freedom of expression and to voice one's opinion, freedom of the press, social stability and peace, social dialogue and gender equality (IMF, 2015).

Many countries in the Sahel region suffer from droughts and floods, including Burkina, making climate change and climate variability threats to “livelihoods and food security” (FAO, 2016). Between 1950 and 2005 the Directorate General of National Meteorology (DGM) noted the following trends in rainfall in Sahelian countries:

- 1950 to 1970, more wet than dry years
- 1970 to 1990, more dry than wet years
- 1990 to 2005, pronounced shifts between wet and dry years

(Ministry of Environment and Fishery Resources, 2015).

Across Burkina, total annual rainfall and the number of rainy days between 1950 and 2005 was characterized by a downward trend, while the number of consecutive dry days was characterized by an upward trend in three different areas of the country, making vulnerability to climate change a poverty indicator (Ministry of Environment and Fishery Resources, 2015).

In 2014 Burkina's Human Development Index (HDI) was 0.402. According to the UNDP (2015), Burkina's HDI places it in the “low human development category”, with a rank of “183 out of 188 countries and territories” (p. 2). The average HDI for countries in the low human development category is 0.505 (UNDP, 2015), as compared with 0.896 for countries in the very high development category, 0.744 for those in the

high development category, and 0.630 for those in the medium development category (hdr.undp.org/en/composite/HDI), where the upper limit of HDI is 1.0 (Jahan, 2015). Not only is Burkina's HDI below that of the average for countries in the low human development category, it also is "below the average of 0.518 for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa" (UNDP, 2015, p. 4).

HDI is a composite index that measures what the UNDP has determined to be three basic aspects of human development:

- "The ability to lead a long and healthy life, measured by Life Expectancy at Birth;
- The ability to acquire knowledge, measured by Mean Years of Schooling and Expected Years of Schooling; and
- The ability to achieve a decent standard of living, measured by Gross National Income per capita" (Jahan, 2015, p. 3).

For measuring HDI more comprehensively, four additional composite indices are used:

- "The Inequity-adjusted HDI, [which] discounts the HDI according to the extent of inequity;
- The Gender Development index, [which] compares female and male HDI values;
- The Gender Inequity Index, [which] highlights women's empowerment; and
- The Multidimensional Poverty Index, [which] measures non-income dimensions of poverty" (Jahan, 2015, p. 3).

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is an indication of education, health and living standards (water, electricity, cooking fuel, floor, toilet, assets) deprivations within the same household, and represents the share of a country's population that is multidimensionally poor (UNDP, 2015). Burkina's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) in 2010 (*the most recent survey date available*) was 0.508 (Jahan, 2015). Accordingly, 82.8 percent of Burkina's population is multidimensionally poor, with another 7.6 percent living close to multidimensional poverty (UNDP, 2015).

Burkina's poverty rate in 2014 was estimated at 40.1%, as compared with 46% in 2009 (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/burkinafaso/overview>). According to the IMF (2015), the increased economic growth prior to 2014 along with measures for redistributing income were insufficient for significantly reducing the poverty rate, which has threatened achievement of the MDGs. Moreover, Burkina is characterized by geographic disparities in poverty incidences such that in 2009 they ranged from an estimated 17.3% in the central region [*an area prone to more favorable climate and land conditions, where households have greater access to social services and benefit from better living standards*] to 80.1% in the northern region [*an area prone to less favorable climate and land conditions, where households have limited access to social services and tend to suffer from poor living standards*]. As well:

- There is a "social deficit" with respect to people's ability to satisfy most of their basic needs, notably "energy, housing and sanitation", but an overall increase in people's access to potable water (p. 11).
- Nationally, only 2.3% of Burkinabé households have access to adequate sewage disposal, while 4.7% have access to sanitation, though mostly in urban areas (p. 12).

- While significant efforts have been made to improve education, technical and vocational training, these efforts are hampered by multiple constraints, from low quality education, an insufficient number of teachers and “low school attendance in rural areas” to high educational costs, a low learning capacity relative to market demands and poor system management (p. 15).
- An overall improvement in healthcare is challenged by an “unequal distribution of health infrastructure and staff shortages, particularly in the north”, which hinders efforts towards reducing malnutrition in children, hunger and disease (p. 16).
- There have been strides towards “equity and non-discrimination” as well as a “culture of human rights” (p. 16).
- The country adopted a national gender policy as a means for confronting existing gender inequities influenced by cultural and religious beliefs and practices. However, despite political and legislative measures pertaining to “equal rights between men and women”, gender inequity remains a challenge (p. 17).
- Efforts are being made to strengthen and improve political governance, which has been characterized by corruption, insufficient resources, weak accountability and limits to the provision of “credible and accessible justice” (p.20).

Telecommunications include radio and television, telephones and the internet (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/uv.html>). Burkina’s development strategy includes an objective focused towards promoting Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) across all sectors (IMF, 2015).

Stakeholders

Local Level

Burkinabé communities, households and individuals. For the most part, those living in or affected by poverty recognize that they have fewer opportunities than the non-poor for meeting basic everyday needs or progressing beyond one’s life situation as it currently is. A future characterized by a significant reduction in region-level poverty could mean few poverty incidences at the community and household levels. High importance.

Region/National Level

Roch Marc Christian Kabore, President of Burkina Faso. There’s much at stake for President Kabore, elected president of Burkina in November 2015 following a year-long transitional government that ran the country when former President Blaise Compaoré was ousted in 2014. His presidency comes on the heel of Blaise’s 27-year leadership that fostered a non-democratic political system, social instability and fluctuating economic growth. As well, under Blaise’s leadership Burkina did not see significant strides towards poverty reduction, due in large part to corruption. All eyes are on President Kabore to see whether he can turn things around for the country, such that we see increasing economic growth, social stability and fewer poverty incidences across the nation. High importance.

Paul Kaba Thiéba, Prime Minister of Burkina Faso. An economist, Thiéba was appointed by President Kabore to serve as Prime Minister in January of this year. While he has little political experience, his years of work experience gained from employment with West African banking institutions gives him an advantage for leading the country in establishing and maintaining the required infrastructure for promoting economic growth. As well, he has expressed commitment towards the State's provision of basic social services to Burkinabé citizens. High importance.

Global

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The UNDP is the UN's global development network. It is committed to working alongside of Burkina and 169 other countries and territories for helping to reduce incidences of inequities and social exclusion and eradicate poverty through sustainable development. Its sustainable development goals (SDGs) are predicated on the 8 millennium development goals (MDGs) for reducing by half poverty, hunger and disease" impacting the lives of billions of people around the world. The SDGs are designed to be achieved through partnership and "pragmatism to make the right choices now to improve life, in a sustainable way, for future generations" <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>. High importance.

The World Bank. At the core of the World Bank's goals are an "end to extreme poverty within a generation" and the "boost [in] shared prosperity (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/about>). Its investment in Burkina's future includes financing and support for improved social services, transport infrastructure, gender empowerment, etc. A reduction of poverty in Burkina at the region level should facilitate Burkina's ability to repay loans relative to World Bank projects aimed at achieving the MDGs. Medium importance.

International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF is an international organization comprised of 189 countries that work together to "foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world" <https://www.imf.org/external/about.htm>. Its investment in Burkina's future involves annual loan installments to support government programs designed to: "alleviate poverty through more rapid growth in per capita income, improve access to basic social services, job creation . . . protect the poorest and most vulnerable groups through promoting income-generating activities . . . [achieve] targeted distribution of food aid . . . [facilitate the] purchase [of] generic medicines and . . . schoolbook-lending [programs]" (<https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2015/09/14/01/49/pr9533>). A reduction of poverty in Burkina at the region level should facilitate Burkina's ability to repay the IMF loan. Medium importance.

History

Political Coup d'états (1983 to 1991)

- 1983 – Blaise Compaoré plays a significant role in military Capt. Thomas Sankara taking power from Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo. Sankara formed the National Council for the Revolution and assumed the presidency. The Republic of Upper Volta was renamed Burkina Faso. Sankara envisioned a country characterized by integrity and well-being for the nation as a whole.

- 1987 - The most notable coup in Burkina Faso history; French-backed Capt. Blaise Compaoré, who had trained in Gadhafi's guerilla camps, leads a military coup, assassinating Thomas Sankara.
- 1990 – Compaoré introduces limited democratic reforms and constitutional reforms.

A Return to democracy (1992 to 2010)

- 1992 - Compaoré's political party, the Organization for Popular Democracy-Labor Movement, wins a majority of the seats in parliament.
- 1999 – A nation-wide strike over economic grievances and alleged human rights violations.
- 2004 – Thirteen people accused of plotting a coup against Compaoré are tried in a military tribunal.
- 2008 – A two-day nation-wide strike following weeks of protests about high costs of living. Working people demand wage increases.
- 2009 – The passing of a law requiring women to make up at least 30% of political party candidates.

Political and Social Unrest (2011 to 2015)

- 2011 – Weeks of violent protests all over the country following the death of a student who was being held in police custody. The presidential guard and other military personnel mutiny over unpaid wages. People protest over food prices. Seven people are killed by government forces in an effort to suppress in Burkina's second largest city. The EU Commission allocates an additional \$13.5 million in humanitarian aid to address shortfalls in food in the Sahel region, including Burkina.
- 2012 – Compaoré fires the head of Burkina's customs service after he was found with nearly \$4 million in two large suitcases. Over 1,500 Malian refugees enter Burkina, fleeing terrorist attacks. UN and EU aid chiefs appealed to other nations to establish a fund for food crises in the Sahelian region, including Burkina. More than 30 people are killed in conflict over land right issues along the Burkina and Mali border. The West African regional group ECOWAS approved humanitarian aid of \$3 million for victims of the food crisis and rebel attacks in the Sahel region, including Burkina. UNICEF leads a cross-agency appeal for funds for the Sahel region in which an estimated 15 million people suffer from malnutrition, including parts of Burkina. Thousands of people protest spikes in food prices and petrol.
- 2014 – Demonstrators all over the country oppose Compaoré's plans to extend his presidential rule. Mass protests, mainly in the capital city and the second largest city, against proposed constitutional changes that would allow Compaoré to continue his rule for another 5 years. A mass uprising drives Compaoré from office. The military is condemned for taking control of the country. A transitional government is put in place to run the country until 2015 elections.
- 2015 – Former prime minister Roch Marc Christian Kaboré wins the presidential election.

Current era (title yet to be determined)

- 2016 – In January Islamist militants attack a hotel and café in the capital city, killing 29 people, most of them foreigners. An Australian couple is kidnapped for ransom.

Sources for timeline

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13072857>

<http://www.timelines.ws/countries/BURKINAFASO.HTML>

<http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/africa/burkinafaso/bftimeln.htm>

Scanning Hits

See Appendix

3

The Baseline Future

“We eat to feel satisfied, for energy, pleasure and celebration. But many people confuse feeling “full” with being truly satisfied. They don’t understand that comfortably full stomachs may not contain all the minerals and vitamins needed for good health and strong immune systems. This is particularly important for people living with HIV and for children. Poorly nourished adults and children get ill more often than those who eat a good diet, and many children don’t eat enough protein and energy foods to grow to full height and strength.”⁸

Baseline Future Inputs

TRENDS

Social

- Burkina’s population is 18.7 million people; it averages a yearly growth rate of 2.92%.⁹
- The gross enrollment ratio for primary education, males and females, is increasing.¹⁰
- The population of youth aged 15-24 is increasing rapidly, most of whom are illiterate.¹¹
- The rate of facility-based deliveries is increasing annually as a result of an innovative national program that subsidizes deliveries and emergency obstetric care in public medical facilities.¹²
- Less than 5% of Burkina’s rural population has access to electricity. The annual growth rate of access to electricity is neither increasing nor decreasing, but remains at zero percent.¹³

Technology

- While smart-phone ownership and internet access rates in poorer countries, such as Burkina, remains low, the ownership of smart-phone and internet usage is increasing.¹⁴
- The number of unbanked Burkinabé using Airtel’s mobile money services¹⁵ is increasing annually.¹⁶

Economic

- Economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa decelerated to 3 ½% in 2015, and is expected to drop to 3% in 2016, influenced by declines in commodity prices.¹⁷
- The prices of staple foods in Burkina Faso are increasing.¹⁸
- The prices of gold and cotton, Burkina’s main export commodities, are continuing to decrease.¹⁹

Environmental

- Monthly high temperature averages continue to rise each year, especially in the northern areas.²⁰
- The eastern and western parts of the country, which historically have had more favorable climate conditions, are increasingly impacted by high temperatures and droughts.²¹

- An increase in tree cutting in the north, which provides wood for food preparation, is resulting in desert expansion where trees once grew. Land degradation and desertification are increasing.²²

Political

- Political attacks in West Africa and violence against citizens by Islamist militants is on the rise.²³
- Since 2011, governance is increasing, safety and rule of law is decreasing.²⁴

Poverty

- Human development in Burkina is increasing.²⁵
- The poverty rate is decreasing.²⁶

PLANS

UNDP

- The UNDP's project, *Strengthening Climate Information and EWS in Western and Central Africa: Burkina Faso*, aims to:

“[increase] knowledge and understanding of climate variability and change-induced risks at country level and in targeted vulnerable areas, [strengthen] adaptive capacity to reduce risks to climate-induced economic losses, successful demonstration, deployment, and transfer of relevant adaptation technology in targeted areas and [enhance] enabling environment to support adaptation related technology transfer”.²⁷

The World Bank

- A number of the development projects approved by The World Bank for Burkina Faso are:
 - Transport and Urban Infrastructure Development Project: to improve ground mobility as well as access by certain urban and rural areas to infrastructure designed to improve connectivity.²⁸
 - Reproductive Health Project – Additional Financing: to improve the quality of reproductive services in selected regions.²⁹
 - Economic Governance and Citizen Engagement Project: to help strengthen citizen capacity in monitoring “public sector performance and service delivery”, and economic accountability mechanisms.³⁰
 - Education Access and Quality Improvement Project (EAQIP): to support Burkina's government in providing increased access to primary school education in two of the country's poorest regions, increased access in secondary school access in five of the poorest regions, and improving teaching capabilities and learning.³¹

PROJECTIONS

Tradingeconomics.com

- Burkina's population is expected to increase to 36 million by 2017, and to 149 million in 2020.³²
- Unemployment is expected to increase from 6.6% to 7.35% by the end of 2016, and to 7.57% in 2020.³³
- GDP annual growth rate is expected to decrease from 5.90% to 4.94% by the end of 2016, but increase to 5.15% in 2020.³⁴

Africa Adaption Programme

- “Burkina Faso will experience some of the worst impact of climate change . . . which will compound the low agricultural productivity that continues to constrain the country’s growth”.³⁵

Greenfacts.org

- Four baseline scenarios are presented with respect to the future of desertification:
 - If a dryland area, such as Burkina, takes a reactive management approach to desertification, increased globalization will lead to increasing desertification, as influenced by a decrease in land irrigation, a decrease in poverty, and a significant increase in climate change.
 - If [Burkina] takes a proactive management approach to desertification, increased globalization will lead to a slower rate of increasing desertification, as influenced by an increase in land irrigation, an increase in poverty and no change in current climate change conditions.
 - If [Burkina] takes a reactive management approach to desertification, increased regionalization will lead to a faster rate of increasing desertification, as influenced by an increase in land irrigation, a significant increase in poverty, and a significant increase in climate change.
 - If [Burkina] takes a proactive management approach to desertification, increased regionalization will result in desertification that initially resembles an S-curve pattern that increases, decreases then increases by a slower rate, as influenced by no change in current land irrigation, an initial increase in poverty followed by a stabilized poverty rate, and an increase in climate change.³⁶

Baseline Summary

TITLE & DESCRIPTION

Region-level Poverty in Burkina Decreasing at a Snail’s Pace

Poverty in Burkina, as measured by national-specific poverty determinants, is decreasing, but progress is slow.

ABSTRACT

Poverty in Burkina is decreasing at a slow rate. It’s driven by the interaction of limited poverty reduction strategies that target the poor in rural areas, inadequate access to social services and resources, increased climatic shocks, weak political, economic and market stability, slow progress towards improved infrastructure, continuing inequity and improved governance.

KEY DRIVERS

Geographical location: “Out of sight, out of mind”—rural-area poor people will continue to drive national-level poverty until they are prioritized in terms of poverty reduction strategies.

While existing poverty reduction strategies for Burkina specify interventions for reducing poverty in rural areas, poverty remains predominantly rural³⁷—50.7% in the rural areas as compared with 19.9% in urban areas.³⁸ Almost all rural-area poor people practice agriculture & livestock production, many are illiterate, and most are vulnerable with respect to income levels, capabilities and opportunities.³⁹ The rural poor are “out of sight” and thus less likely to be prioritized.



Village in Burkina (personal photo)

Stability: “If this, then that” –political, economic or market instability will shift national-level poverty towards acceleration if certain trends continue along the same path or reverse paths.

Continued government corruption and increased terrorist attacks in Burkina or in nearby countries may threaten its political stability. An expected gradual increase in economic growth in 2017 will depend on the government’s ability to restore lost investor confidence.⁴⁰ Falling market prices for gold and cotton amid potential increases in terrorist attacks⁴¹ could destabilize the economy⁴² and reverse the decreasing poverty trend.



<http://www.dw.com/en/burkina-faso-abandons-gm-cotton/a-19362330>

Access to resources: “if a tree falls in the forest”— increased tree cutting reduces land and forest resources and annual rainfall in areas where trees are cut, but no one seems to hear the early warning signs that environmental degradation will lead to health problems, while lowering human productivity.

The rapid expansion of agriculture is causing increased deforestation and reduced access to fuelwood resources for food preparation and heating. Increased deforestation means increased usage of imported oil for energy requirements, which is costly. As more oil is imported, energy security is reduced and energy poverty increased.⁴³ Natural resource degradation (land, soil, water, air quality, etc) leads to reduced yields per unit of output; malnutrition and poor health leads to a reduction in physical labor capacity.⁴⁴



Burkina (personal photo)

Infrastructure: “little by little” – slow but steady progress towards improved infrastructure will lead to slow but steady progress towards poverty reduction.

Improvements in Burkina’s ICT have contributed to a slight annual per capita GDP growth. As well, the country is making slow progress towards road construction and maintenance, the provision of water and sanitation to its entire population, and improvement of its transportation corridors—which open up opportunities for increased global trade. However, transport costs remain high, and much of Burkina’s infrastructure networks are supported by the capital city, Ouagadougou, and surrounding areas.⁴⁵ In 2008 Burkina supplied water to 76% of the population, exceeding its MDG target; however, it missed its 2008 MDG target for sanitation, with coverage provided to only 10% of the population.⁴⁶ Access to electricity remains low across the country, with significant disparities in access between urban and rural areas.⁴⁷



*Village in Burkina---source of drinking water
(personal photo)*

Access to social services: “someone’s child left behind, intellectually though not medically” – access to universal health insurance coverage reduces the number of deaths among children under 5, but limited access to primary and secondary schooling among children in rural communities will result in increased numbers of healthy but uneducated poor children.

Access to primary and secondary education is hindered by poor school infrastructure, overcrowded classrooms and unregulated school fees, which poor families can’t afford. Demand for secondary education among girls is weak due to girls being pulled out of school to assist with household needs or to marry, or as a result of pregnancies. As well, there is a short supply of teachers at the secondary level.⁴⁸ The national assembly adopted a universal health insurance coverage law that ensures health protection, medical services and other benefits for all, and subsidizes 100% of the cost for the poor and children under 5. This will result in an increased use of health care services, and a reduction in mortality and morbidity amongst those most vulnerable.⁴⁹



<http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/08/poverty-and-slavery-often-go-hand-in-hand-for-africas-children/>

Equity: “good woman down” – Continued discrimination towards, abuses against and the oppression of certain women, who fight the system whenever and in whatever ways they can, will perpetuate low human development and the slow progress of poverty production.

Socio-cultural traditions perpetuate gender inequality and prevent rural-based women from contributing to Burkina’s development. Though Burkina’s constitution guarantees and protects women’s rights, there’s a substantial gap between stated law and reality⁵⁰ in that abuses and discriminatory practices against women remain high.⁵¹ As women represent the majority among those who are extremely poor, and because strategies for reducing gender inequality are not well-integrated with poverty reduction strategies, ongoing inequity in gender relations may stall poverty reduction.⁵²



<http://ohrh.law.ox.ac.uk/to-tackle-poverty-effectively-see-it-through-the-lens-of-gender/>

Climate change: “heat wave” – rising annual temperatures, fluctuating rainfall amounts and climatic shocks will reduce agricultural productivity and leave the Burkinabe people vulnerable to food insecurity, and increased illnesses and disease.

Increases in extreme climate changes, including rising temperatures, increased droughts and flooding have a significant impact on human and natural systems.⁵³ As well, clearing land for increased agricultural production reduces annual rainfall where trees have been cut.⁵⁴



<http://news.mit.edu/2013/projected-climate-change-west-africa-unlikely-to-worsen-malaria-0916>

Governance: “rule by the people” – The Burkinabé people increasingly hold the government and elected officials accountable for their promises and actions with respect to the overall well-being of the nation.

Successful presidential elections in 2015 and the installation of a civilian government following a period of political instability indicates a significant improvement in “government representation, accountability and transparency”. Corruption is an ongoing problem, but Burkinabé prosecutors are working to bring to justice former members of former President Blaise Compaoré’s administration.⁵⁵



<http://bloas.cfr.ora/cambell/2012/01/>

Baseline Narrative/Scenario

Poverty has remained predominantly rural. Rural area poor people still farm the land, as this is all they know to do when it comes to providing for the needs of their families. Higher-than-normal temperatures compounded by other extreme climate conditions and coupled with environmental degradation pose serious threats to food security and health. Women, especially those in rural areas, still are confronted by inequality due to prevailing social and cultural traditions that deny them equal rights. As women in general represent the majority among those considered extremely poor, those identified as poor and who are denied civil rights and protection under the law make little or no contribution towards Burkina's development.

Rural area poor farming communities having limited access to electricity inadvertently cause desertification to extend across southern areas of the country as a result of excessive tree cutting, agricultural expansion and reduced rainfall amounts. Rural area tree cutting leads to deforestation, which leads to the increased consumption of oil imported from other countries. Increased oil consumption due to limited fuelwood resources strain already limited financial resources. The overall effect of these changes is a reduction in energy security and an increase in energy poverty.

Increasing numbers of rural area poor farming communities having limited access to water, sanitation and food resources suffer from malnutrition and poor health, which reduces physical labor productivity. As well, limited access to primary and secondary education as a result of cultural and traditional practices that prefer educating males over females, inadequate school infrastructure, poor teacher-to-student ratios, and excessive school fees leave rural-area Burkina intellectually impoverished. However, the provision of universal health insurance coverage helps improve health and increase the lifespan of rural-area children under 5. The overall effect of these changes is a reduction in mortality and morbidity, and an increase in the number of healthy, uneducated children who grow up with little intellectual capacity to contribute towards Burkina's development.

Road improvements allow for increased activity along Burkina's transportation corridors and thus, increased trade with neighboring countries. However, high transport costs cut into economic gains. Improvements in Burkina's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector opens up opportunities for small streams of economic growth each year. Slow progress towards poverty reduction with respect to improved transportation and ICT networks is linked to the anchoring of these infrastructures by Ouagadougou, the capital city, and surrounding areas, where the country's highest population densities are clustered.

Overall economic growth and progress towards poverty reduction are offset by ongoing government corruption, increased terrorist attacks in the country as well as fluctuating market prices for gold and cotton, Burkina's two main export commodities. However, following the ousting of former President Blaise Compaoré, the Burkinabé people hold each successive president and elected officials accountable for how they run the country, how they administer justice, and according to Burkina's progress towards improved human development and poverty reduction.



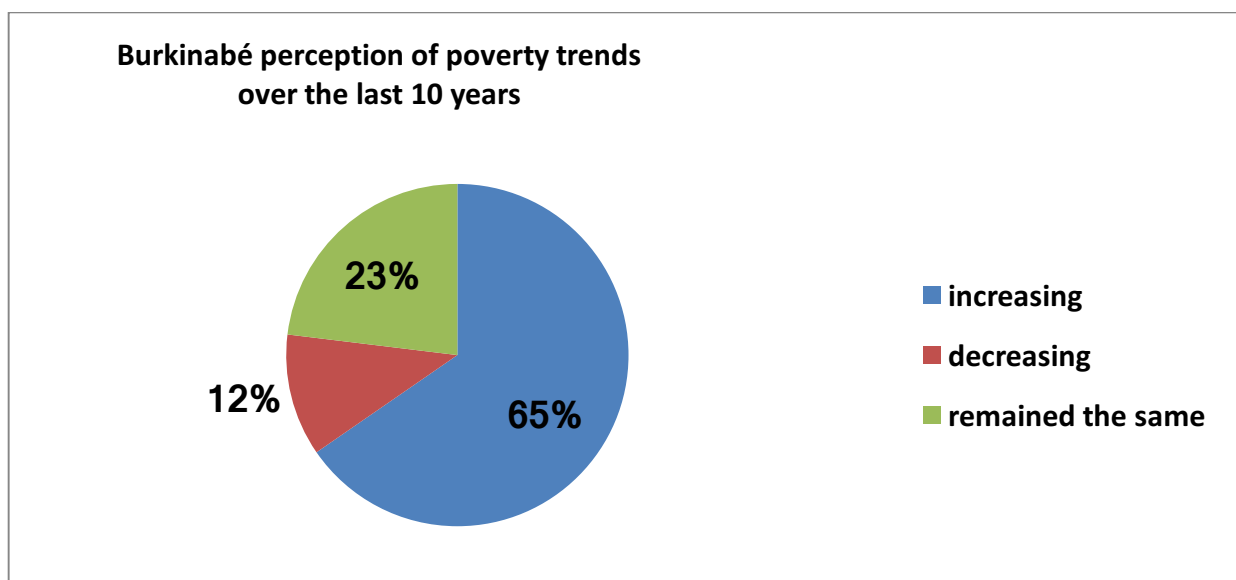
Questionnaire Analysis

“Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life.”⁵⁶

In order to understand how the Burkinabé people think about poverty, strategies for poverty reduction and the future of poverty in Burkina by 2025, a questionnaire was developed containing eight close-ended questions, one filtering question, and one open-ended question. The questionnaire was given to people that I personally know in three different areas of the country (Tougan in the north, Bobo-Dioulasso in the southwest, and Ouagadougou, the capital city), and to several attendees of a 3-day sustainable agricultural conference in the capital in September 2016. Questionnaire respondents were aged 18 to 61 or older, with the majority, 38%, falling between the ages of 41 and 50. Twenty-six individuals, 13 male and 13 female, completed and returned the questionnaire according to indicated instructions—the questionnaires of those who gave multiple responses for one or more questions that asked for only one response were not included in the sample, nor were incomplete questionnaires.

Key Questionnaire Responses

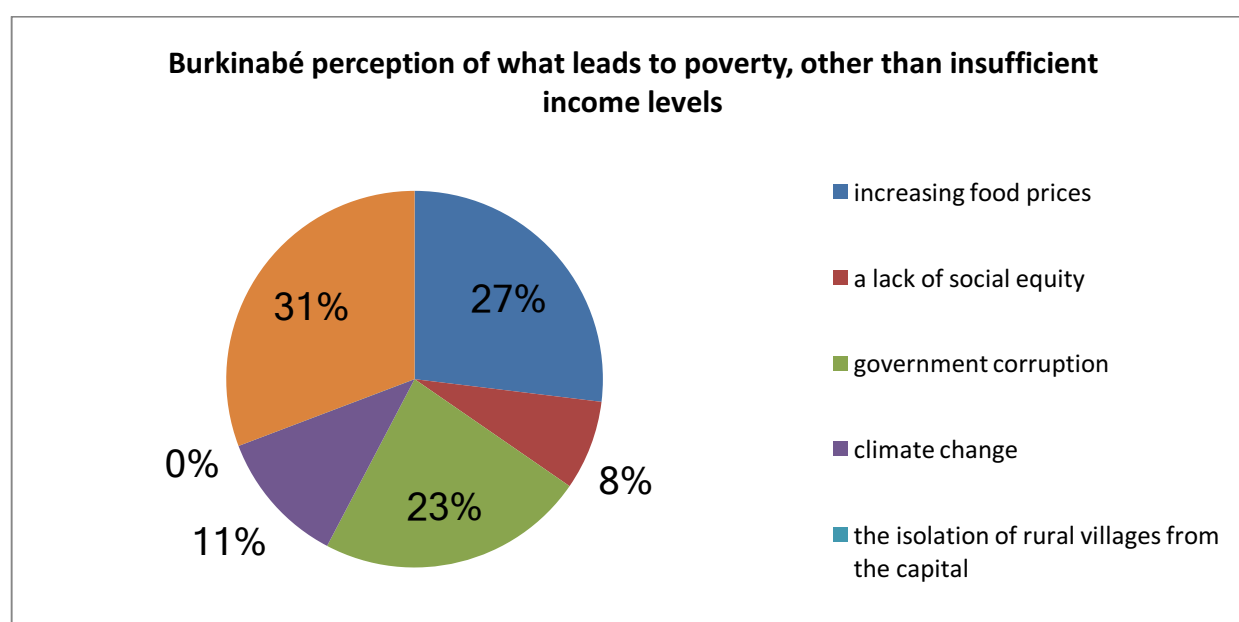
Q5: Over the last 10 years, do you think that poverty in Burkina has been increasing or decreasing, or has it remained the same?



Analysis & Implications

Despite published information by the UNDP and other stakeholders that indicate a decreasing trend in poverty in Burkina over the last decade, the majority of the questionnaire respondents believe that poverty has increased over this timeframe. Perhaps the most feasible reason for the disparity in perceptions is that reported annual increases in economic growth during the gold boom along with favorable market prices for cotton at the time did not in any way benefit respondents or their families. Decreasing market prices for gold and cotton in the last two years seemingly have led to decreasing economic growth, making the hype over these two export commodities as strategic ploys for accelerated growth somewhat misguided.

Q6: Other than insufficient income levels, what do you believe leads to poverty in Burkina?



Analysis & Implications

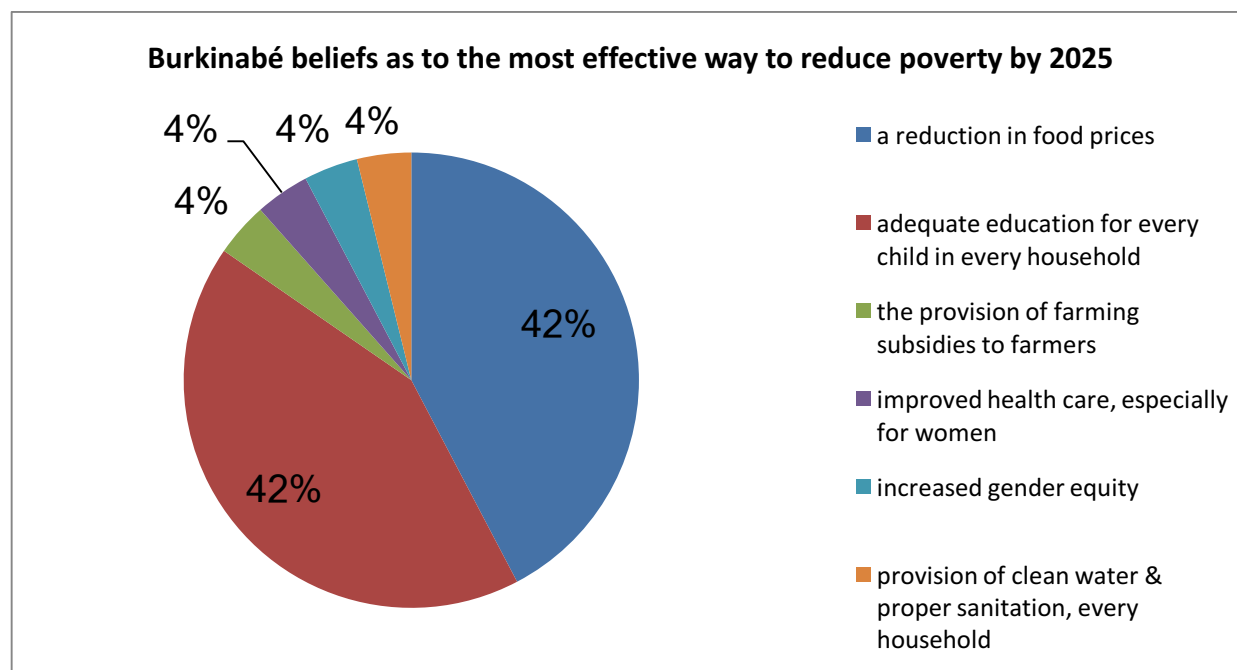
Thirty-one percent (31%) of questionnaire respondents believe that other than insufficient income levels, a lack of government-provided social services, such as adequate education for every Burkinabé child, adequate healthcare, and adequate law enforcement and justice, leads to poverty in Burkina. Twenty-seven percent (27%) believe that poverty is caused by increases in food prices, especially staple foods, such as maize and rice. Twenty-three percent (23%) believe that poverty is caused by corruption within the government. None of the respondents believe that the isolation of rural villages from the capital city, Ouagadougou, leads to poverty.

Much of the research relative to poverty in Burkina points to low secondary school enrollment and completion as well as increases in food prices as key poverty determinants in Burkina, which is supported by respondent perceptions. However, research studies also point to climate change and rural-village isolation as key determinants of poverty, with government corruption portrayed as a somewhat lesser but

still important concern. However, most Burkinabé citizens speak openly and rather emphatically about government corruption that took place during Blaise Compaoré’s 27-year presidential rule; a presidency he gained by staging a military coup and assassinating President Thomas Sankara in 1987, and which he maintained through strategic alliances with neighboring West African countries and especially, Côte d’Ivoire, repeated promises of change, including the promise to make Burkina more of a democratic nation and corrupt practices, including ordering the assassinations of certain individuals who publicly opposed him. And considering existing ethnic, cultural and gender dynamics that have tended to work in favor of one group over others—the Mossi people, the largest, dominant and most shrewd ethnic group, tend to leverage economic and political situations for their gain, social structures within clans that have tended to support top-down hierarchal power according to position/status, and gender inequity—it isn’t surprising that only 8% of respondents view the lack of social equity as a poverty issue.

The results of this question reveal that respondents are aware of multiple causes of poverty; poverty in Burkina isn’t caused solely by a lack of sufficient income. As the Burkinabé increasingly use political avenues, e.g., participation in democratic elections, social avenues, e.g., protests and demonstrations, and economic avenues, e.g., organizational or industry-wide strikes, to promote their concerns with respect to alleviating poverty, as well as informational avenues for learning more about other poverty-related issues in Burkina, there may be more of an alignment between their perceptions of poverty causes and those identified in published research.

Q7: The government works in a variety of ways to reduce poverty. What do you believe will be the most effective way for reducing poverty in Burkina over the next 10 years?

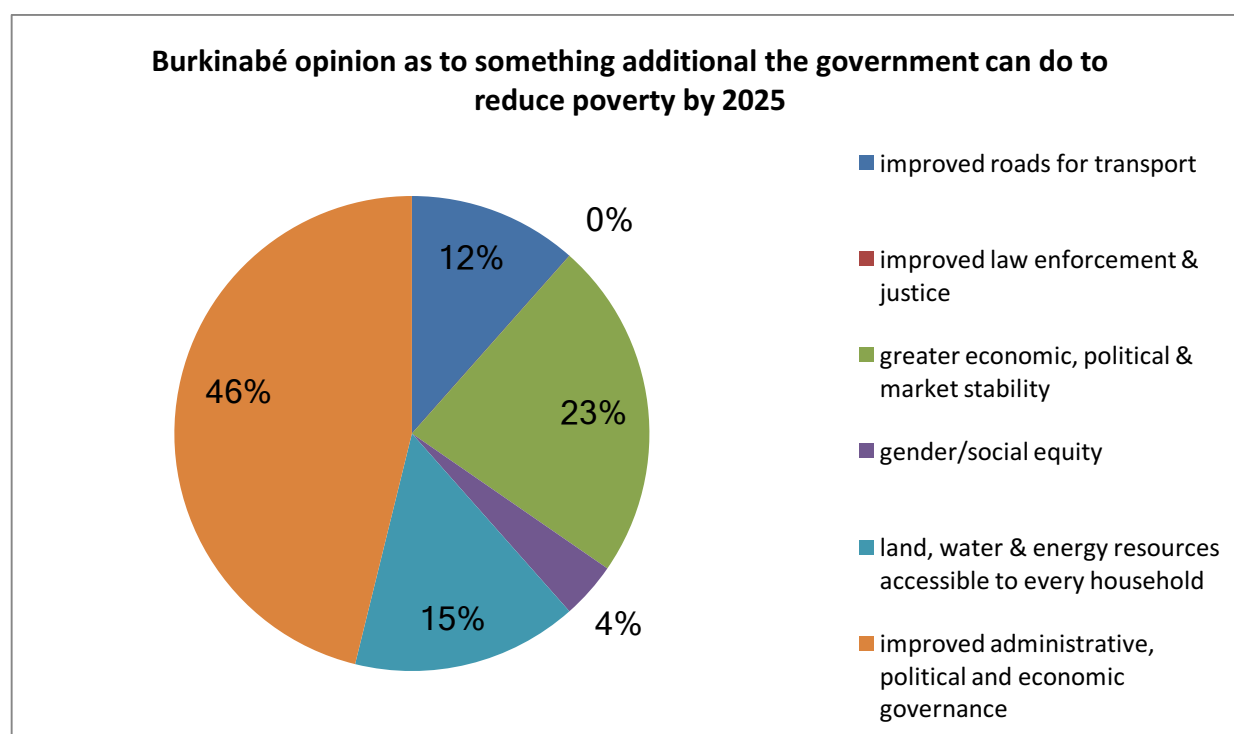


Analysis & Implications

For this question, there is an even split of 42% between the two most indicated responses as to the most effective way to reduce poverty in Burkina by 2025—accessibility to adequate education for every child in every household, and a reduction in food prices. As well, there is a four-way even split of 4% between the least indicated responses as to the most effective way to reduce poverty in the nation—the provision of farming subsidies to farmers, improved health care, especially for women, increased gender equity, and the provision of clean water and proper sanitation for every household. While there’s a correlation between published research and questionnaire responses with respect to accessible education for all Burkinabé children and the need to reduce food prices, Burkinabé respondents do not place as high as a priority on the other poverty reduction strategies as do external stakeholders or the Burkina government. With the exception of farming subsidies to small farmers as a poverty reduction strategy—agricultural export subsidies and subsidy entitlements will be eliminated by 2018, as they favor developed EU countries over developing countries⁵⁷—all of the other strategies are given higher priority in published material.

The results of this question is that in the minds of the respondents high food prices and inadequate or inaccessible education for every child are the two most pressing problems impacting the lives of Burkinabé families today, and should be the focus of poverty reduction strategies implemented by the government over the next 10 years.

Q8: If the government could do one more thing to reduce poverty in Burkina over the next 10 years, what should that be?

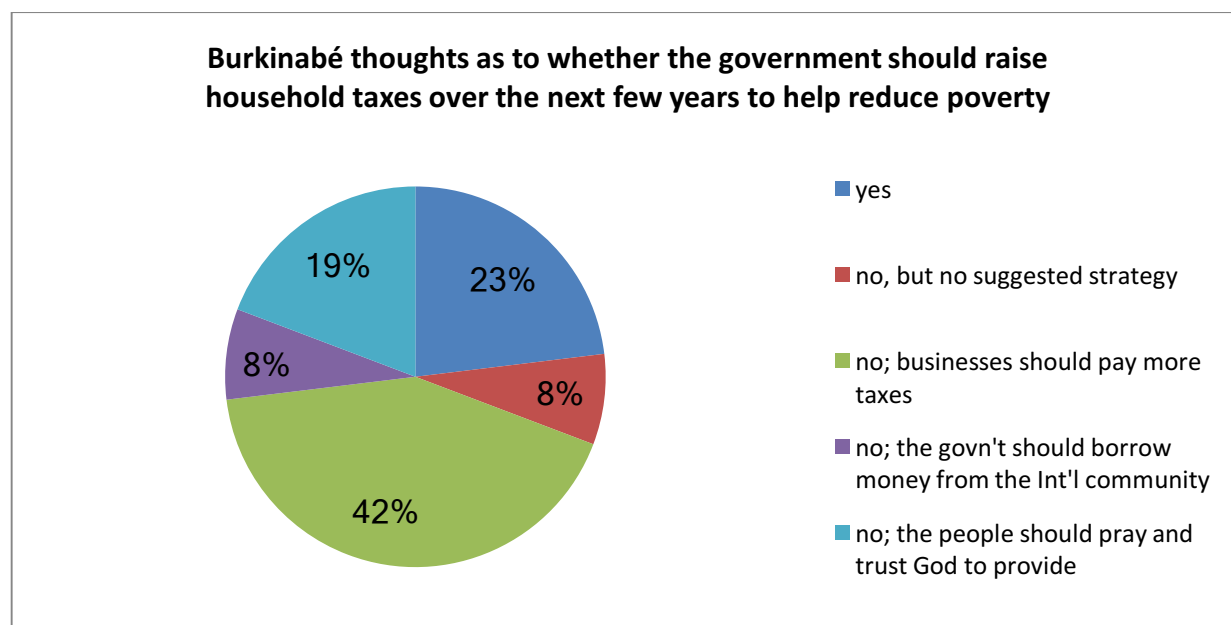


Analysis & Implications

In addition to strategies for reducing food prices and making education accessible to all Burkinabé children, 46% of respondents think that improved administrative, political and economic governance will reduce poverty in Burkina by 2025. Twenty-three percent (23%) think that government efforts should be directed towards greater economic, political and market stability, 15% think the government should make land, water and energy resources available to all households, 12% think roads should be improved, and only 4% see gender and social equity as poverty-related concerns that should be addressed in the next decade. None of the respondents think that existing law enforcement practices and judicial processes are priority concerns for reducing poverty. Still, as a nation, the Burkinabé are working towards bringing former President Compaoré, his brother, the former military leader and others to justice for crimes committed against individuals, financial corruption that has left the country in dire straits, and a staged coup against the transitional government in 2015 that disrupted the country's political stability.

The results of this question is that in the minds of the respondents existing governance at the administrative, political and economic levels is the most pressing problem impacting the nation as a whole, followed by market, economic and political instability. These should be the focus of poverty reduction strategies also implemented by the government over the next 10 years.

Q9: Reducing poverty costs money. Should the government raise household taxes over the next few years in order to help reduce poverty? If not, what should be done in the next few years in order to help pay for the costs associated with reducing poverty in Burkina by 2025?



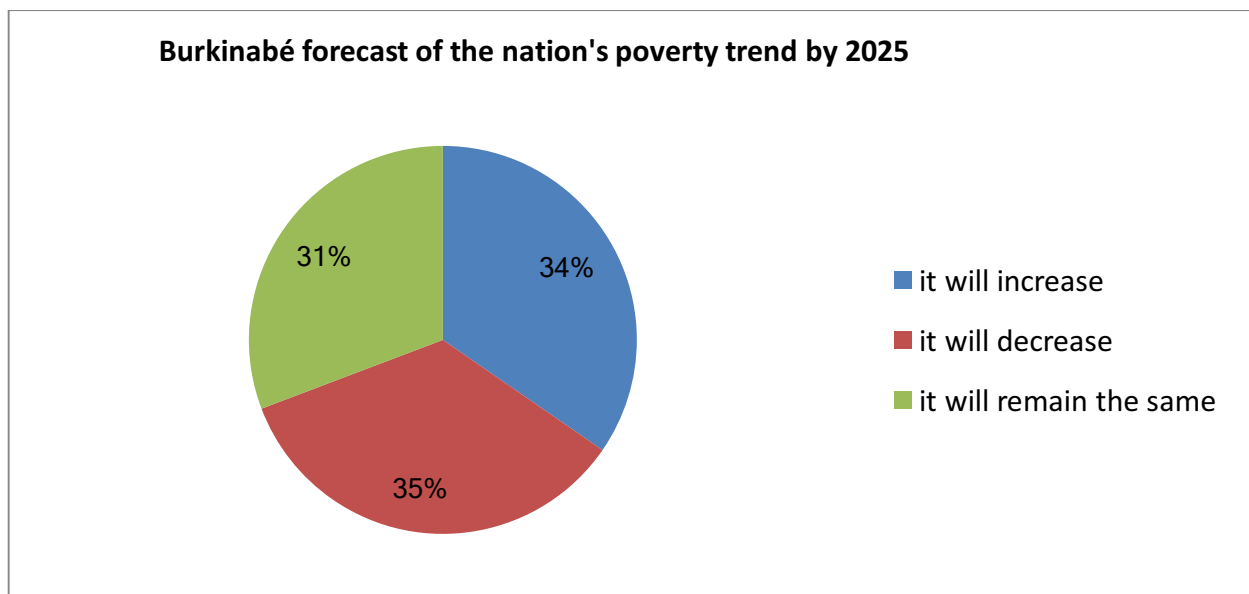
Analysis & Implications

This filtering question asked respondents to indicate “yes” if they agreed with the proposed poverty-reduction strategy, or to indicate “no” and choose from among three other strategies if they disagreed.

Only 23% of the respondents agree that the government should raise household taxes as a means for reducing strategy, while 77% do not agree. Of those who do not agree, 42% suggest tax increases on businesses, 19% suggest prayer and trust in God's provision, and 8% suggest borrowing money from the international community as poverty-reduction strategies. Eight percent (8%) of respondents who disagreed with the proposed strategy did not indicate a suggested alternative.

According to the Joshua Project, 52.4% of Burkina's population is Islamic, 26.7% are animist, 11.2% are Catholic, and 9% are Protestant Christians.⁵⁸ It's quite unlikely that any of the respondents were animist, meaning the questionnaire was completed by individuals who practice Islam, Catholicism and Christianity. This may explain the percentage of those who believe prayer and trust in God to be the preferred action for reducing poverty in the nation. The overwhelming disagreement as to an increase in household taxes may be an indication of a continuing expectation by the majority of Burkinabé people to live free from the obligation or responsibility of personally contributing to the country's economic development and stability, which was the case during former President Campaoré's rule. Several months ago, the government announced changes that will require every household, vehicle, moto and taxi owner to begin paying taxes this year to help offset the financial crisis the country faces as a result of corruption traced to Campaoré's presidency and departure when he was ousted. The existing government must improve communications that help the Burkinabé better understand how the payment of household taxes will help the nation recover from the financial crisis, and help poor households through wealth redistribution.

Q10: Over the next 10 years, do you think poverty in Burkina will increase, decrease or remain the same?



Analysis & Implications

With only minor percentage differences, there is a three-way split as to respondents' forecast of Burkina's poverty trend by 2025---one-third believe poverty will increase, one-third believe poverty will decrease, and one-third believe poverty will remain the same.

When analyzed together with responses to question 5 (their perception as to whether poverty has increased, decreased or remained the same in the last decade), responses to this question reveal that two-thirds of the respondents see the existing poverty situation as an indicator of the future of poverty in Burkina. Only one-third of the respondents believe the existing poverty situation will change for the better. All published information by the UNDP point to a continual decreasing trend in poverty in Burkina in the next 10 years, though there doesn't seem to be an integrated strategy for sustainable poverty reduction; only an accelerated strategy for economic growth. What should become clear to the UNDP, the government of Burkina Faso as well as other stakeholders is that trends that point to increasing economic growth, primarily due to gold and cotton exports, are not reliable indicators of nation-wide poverty reduction, especially when economic gains do not trickle down to those most impacted by poverty.

What I learned from this process

Prior to administering the questionnaire, I thought I'd see correlations among the age groups in which respondents fall and/or the breakdown of gender with their perceptions of historical and anticipated poverty trends, poverty causes and reduction strategies. But seemingly, there are no correlations; if there are, they're difficult to identify, perhaps due to the varying geographical locations of respondents, family size or income levels—specifics that were not requested by this questionnaire.

It's interesting to see the range of indicated income amounts believed to keep respondents' households out of poverty (question 3—from 100,000 CFA Francs to 800,000 CFA Francs (the approximate equivalent of \$169 to \$1,353, respectively), with the majority of their responses at the lower end of this range. Regardless of their responses to question 3, most respondents indicated that their family's income is below the monthly amount of what's necessary to keep their households out of poverty (question 4), whether a little below or significantly below. This means that most of the respondents, most with whom I am personally and intimately acquainted, believe they live in poverty. It breaks my heart knowing that I am limited in terms of what I can do to help reduce their poverty situations. Still, I'm hopeful that going forward, there will be opportunities for doing more, not as a community development practitioner able to impact the lives of only a few, but perhaps as a change agent with a stakeholder organization working towards sustainable solutions that will impact the lives of many.

5

The Alternative Future

“People ask me to predict the future, when all I want to do is prevent it. Better yet, build it. Predicting the future is much too easy, anyway. You look at the people around you, the street you stand on, the visible air you breathe, and predict more of the same. To hell with more. I want better.”⁵⁹

Alternative Future Inputs

TREND BREAKS

Social

- Burkina’s population slows to a yearly growth rate of 1.5%.⁶⁰
- Increasing secondary enrollment of technical and vocational education and training,⁶¹ especially among youths aged 15-24.
- Increasing access to electricity and clean water, especially among those in rural areas.
- Acceleration towards gender equity, especially among rural-area women.

Technology

- Increasing access to the internet made possible through the market entry of an internet provider capable of competing with ONATEL, and/or affordable connectivity.⁶²
- Dramatic acceleration towards renewable energy technologies, such as solar, wind and geothermal power.⁶³

Economic

- Increasing economic growth, not due to increases in gold and cotton commodity prices, but as a result of a sounder and more sustainable strategy for growth and development.
- Decreasing prices of staple foods, grains, legumes, vegetables and fruits.

Environmental

- Decreasing climatic shocks and disruptive climate variability.
- Decreasing land degradation and desertification, resulting from sustainable practices.
- Increasing rainfall amounts in northern rural areas due to beneficial tree planting.

Political

- A decrease in politically-motivated terrorist attacks committed against foreign expats and citizens in West African countries.

- A continued increase in administrative, political and economic governance.
- An increase in intra-country safety and security, especially at land borders.
- An increase in rule of law, such that the government, elected officials and those with above average financial means are held accountable for their actions, the rights and dignity of marginalized people groups are protected, and the process by which laws are enforced is accessible, fair and efficient.⁶⁴

Poverty

- Poverty is decreasing at an accelerated rate.

UNFULFILLED PLANS

- Will Burkina's government make strides towards improved gender relations and gender equity, especially as it concerns rural-area women? Gender equity would open up opportunities for all Burkinabé women, and especially rural-area women, to be educated, start entrepreneurial ventures with the support of the husbands and/or families, and contribute to the nation's human development and economic growth.

EVENTS

- An Ebola outbreak as a result of contaminated individuals entering Burkina from other West African nations.
- A dramatic increase in the number of youth, especially young girls married off to older men having multiple wives, being infected with HIV/AIDS.
- A military coup that overthrows existing national leadership and threatens political stability.
- The departure of foreign investors, NGO's and expats from Burkina as a result of multiple and targeted terrorist attacks influenced by France's war on terrorism.

ISSUES

- Will Burkina move away from seeing gross enrollment for primary education as a key determinant of improved human development towards policies that expand access to secondary education in rural areas, and promote nation-wide completion of junior secondary and upper secondary school?⁶⁵
- Will the elimination of agricultural export subsidy entitlements by developing countries by 2018 combined with the elimination of agricultural export subsidies that favor developed EU countries over developing countries by pushing down market prices and destroying local food value chains allow Burkina to recover market share with respect to gold and cotton exports?⁶⁶

IDEAS

- Will Burkina partner with United Nations agencies, the Segal Family Foundation and other investors in order to produce a soap opera that promotes behavioral/social change with respect to gender relations, social equity, sexual and reproductive health, nutrition, and child protection?⁶⁷
- Will energy policies in Burkina push renewable energy as a sustainable solution for alleviating electricity problems, reducing poverty and promoting economic growth?
- Will Burkina adopt policies that promote climate-smart agriculture (CSA)?⁶⁸

- Can Burkina boost agricultural production by investing in SAGA’s precision agriculture robots?
- Will Burkina’s strategy for accelerated growth include partnership with US clothing brands looking to outsource clothing production to African countries?

KEY UNCERTAINTIES

- Will Burkina be able to meet the resource requirements (*adequate numbers of qualified, well-paid teachers and especially those who specialize in math and science, adequate educational materials, improved school infrastructure*) of maintaining growth in primary education while launching expansion of secondary education?⁶⁹
- Will Burkina be able/willing to acquire/allocate foreign investments for infra-structure improvement, the transition to renewable energy and the adoption of market-oriented higher learning education in order to attract US clothing brands as part of its plan to accelerate economic growth?
- Will Burkina address climate change in ways that are sustainable, and mitigate most climate shocks as well as climate variability in order to promote food security?

Alternative Future Summary

TITLE & DESCRIPTION

Region-level Poverty in Burkina Faso Decreasing at an Accelerated Rate

Poverty in Burkina, as characterized by region-level poverty determinants, is rapidly decreasing.

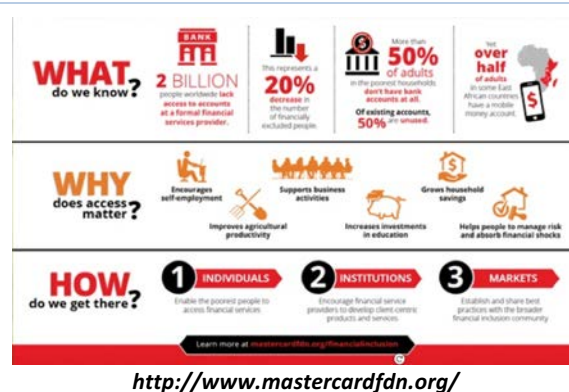
ABSTRACT

Poverty in Burkina is decreasing at an accelerated rate. Its reduction is driven by the interaction of effective poverty reduction strategies that target the poor in rural areas, youth aged 15-24, access to government-provided services, decreasing climate shocks, strong political, economic and market stability, good governance, improved country infrastructure as well as social and gender equity.

KEY DIFFERENCES FROM THE BASELINE

Geographical location: “Even if far away, you’re always close to my heart” – rural area people are prioritized in terms of poverty reduction strategies, which drives poverty downward at a faster rate.

- The government moves away from seeing gross enrollment for primary education as the factor of success in terms of educational achievement, and moves toward implementing strategies that expand access to secondary education and promote completion of secondary school⁷⁰ or technical and vocational training,⁷¹ particularly in rural areas.
- Free mobile reading apps for all cell phone types provide access to reading materials and help improve literacy rates, especially among rural-area girls and women.⁷²
- The adoption of a digital literacy library as part of secondary-level schooling increases digital literacy among rural-area youths between the ages of 15-24.⁷³



Political, Economic and Market Stability : “that, now this” – political, economic and market stability shift national-level poverty towards deceleration resulting from the reversal of key trends.

- A move towards transparency within the government, allowing citizens to hold elected officials and other leaders accountable for their decisions/actions, which minimizes corruption.
- Laws are enforced fairly and efficiently.
- The government adopts and monitors policies that protect the rights and dignity of all Burkinabe people, especially the poor/women.
- Burkina partners with other West African nations for successfully countering terrorism.⁷⁴
- The elimination of agricultural export subsidy entitlements by developing countries combined with the elimination of agricultural export subsidies that favor developed EU countries over developing countries⁷⁵ allow for fair market pricing of Burkina’s gold and cotton exports as well as improved local food value chains.
- Adoption of market-oriented higher learning education attracts partnerships with US clothing



brands,⁷⁶ opening up job opportunities in the fashion industry.

- A downward shift in food prices of maize, rice, beans, vegetable and fruits.

Access to resources: “Two trees for one” – two beneficial trees are planted for every tree cut, while increasing access to renewable energy resources reduces tree cutting, leading to environmental restoration.

- Renewable energy technologies, such as solar, wind and geothermal power, provide greater access to electricity, especially among rural-area poor people.⁷⁷
- Each province in Burkina, and especially those in rural areas, adopt policies that promote energy security, including a mandate to plant two multi-beneficial trees for every tree that is cut down, contributing to a reversal of desertification and land degradation, and greater mitigation of climate variability.
- Access to renewable energy resources decreases dependence on trees or imported energy as fuel sources.



<https://www.newsghana.com.gh/nationwide-tree-growing-programme-takes-off/>

Infrastructure: “The fast and the faster” – improved country infrastructure leads to faster progress in poverty reduction.

- Entrance of a second internet provider (ISP) in the country⁷⁸ expands Burkina’s ISP customer base, which drives acceleration towards improvement in its ICT industry.
- Faster progress in the completion of road construction along with regular road maintenance positions Burkina as a critical transportation hub for trade among West African nations.
- Infrastructure networks expand beyond Ouagadougou and surrounding areas to Dano, Bobo-Dioulasso, Banfora, Dédougou and Tougan, making each of these cities a critical component in maintaining Burkina’s infrastructure.
- Every Burkinabé household has access to clean water and sanitation.



https://www.helvetas.org/projects__countries/projects/keystone_projects/projects_in_africa/rural_roads_in_burkina_faso_as_sources_of_mobility__revenue_and_proudness/

Access to social services: “no child or teacher left behind” – access to primary and secondary schooling, and improved teacher knowledge and skills leads to increasing numbers of educated and capable youth.

- Teacher –to-student ratios remain the same.
- Adoption of BridgeIT makes educational resources in the form of “video, audio and text files” affordable/accessible to primary/secondary school teachers via mobile phones,⁷⁹ improving teacher skills and capabilities.
- Access to technical and vocational training equips youth choosing an alternative to secondary school with specific knowledge and skills, providing a larger talent pool of skilled laborers for the industrialized sector.⁸⁰



<http://www.slideshare.net/victornkwocha/mobile-transformation-in-africa>

Equity: “I can’t cope without my soap” – increased gender and social equity, influenced by a social-change soap opera, contribute towards a rise in human development and a faster progress towards poverty reduction.

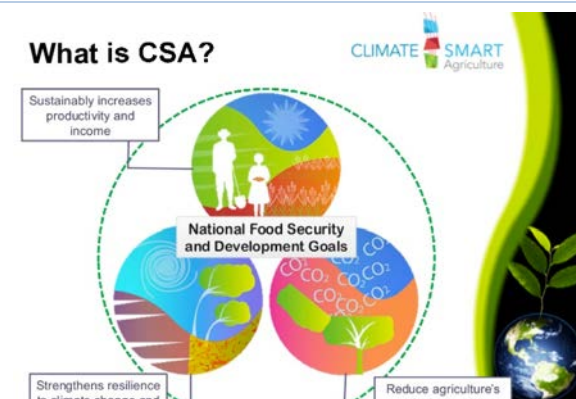
- A soap opera produced by the government in partnership with United Nations agencies and other interested stakeholders and watched by those in most Burkina household promotes social changes.⁸¹



<https://flipboard.com/@rich5dcl/kathatica--infinite-impact-of-service-6b01st00z>

Climate change: “climate smart” – transition to climate-smart, sustainable agricultural practices results in improved agricultural production.

- Burkina adopts climate-smart agriculture (CSA)⁸² and precision agriculture,⁸³ which significantly improve agricultural production/yield among rural-area farmers, while minimizing climate shocks and variability.



<https://csa.guide/csa/what-is-climate-smart-agriculture>

Alternative Future Narrative/Scenario

It's a beautiful day in Burkina. It's 2025 and every Burkinabé have something in which to be truly thankful. Most young Burkinabé children, including those in rural areas, are engaged in primary-school learning, which takes place in the classroom as well as via mobile phone, thanks to the government's adoption of an educational innovation called BridgeIT. With BridgeIT apps installed on teachers' cell phones, teachers have access to teaching materials in the form of text messages, videos and audio files, which they use to supplement existing teaching materials. They are thankful for the wealth of resources provided by BridgeIT to help them in providing quality education to the children they serve, especially as teacher-to-student ratios remain unchanged. They also are grateful for the opportunity to re-learn or learn for the first time science, math and other educational subjects through BridgeIT; subjects in which most teachers previously were unqualified to teach. Some rural-area children dream of one day joining their families in agricultural production. Though once considered their father's work, farming today is a more desirable occupation, perhaps due in some part to all the innovative ideas that have made it simpler, less time consuming and rewarding. Precision farming allows farmers to locate and sustainably manage clusters of non-beneficial weeds that use up most or all of soil nutrients. Climate-smart agricultural (CSA) practice allows farmers to sustainably manage climate risks by planning for climate variability and shocks. Not only does the practice of CSA contribute to increased production, it also helps mitigate climate change impacts, and reverse environmental degradation and desertification, while supporting decreases in food prices and increases in food security and income. The children are eager for the day in which they can contribute their learned knowledge and skills towards sustainable food production for all West Africa.

Most youth now feel a sense of meaningful connectedness to their country and the communities in which they live because of the vast opportunities for employment awaiting them throughout their country following completion of secondary school or technical/vocational training. Youth aged 15-18 enrolled in primary and senior secondary school are thankful for digital phone apps that help improve their reading and writing skills, which they've learned are necessary for success. Youth aged 18-25 enrolled in technical/vocational training are thankful for the opportunity to specialize in fields that are in high demand and which offer rewarding salaries. Young girls and older women alike are thankful for opportunities to work for a US clothing manufacturer in the capital city; some even dreaming of becoming fashion designers.

Those who grow cotton or mine for gold are thankful for the elimination of government subsidies five years ago that threatened the market prices of these commodities. Today they benefit from fair pricing and trade, which also contributes to a growing national economy. Access to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and geothermal power makes electricity, water and sanitation available to nearly everyone in the country, something for which rural-area people are ecstatically grateful.

The majority of people now have access to affordable internet service, thanks to competitive pricing following entrance of a second ISP almost a decade ago. This, along with mobile phone usage for educational purposes has increased smart phone sales, something that lends to the thankfulness of mobile phone vendors.

Everyone is thankful for the country's political and economic stability. Laws are enforced fairly and efficiently, government leaders, elected and appointed officials are transparent in their decision-making and actions, corruption is virtually non-existent, the country's infrastructure has vastly improved since 2016, terrorist attacks have stopped as a result of West Africa's war on terrorism, and increased revenues are being generated from foreign customs duties and taxes paid by truckers of neighboring countries who use Burkina's transportation corridors to import and export goods.

Well, it's 6:00 pm—time for the night-time soap opera, "All my Burkinabé Children". Every household is tuned in to watch today's episode. Will Fulani people finally be accepted and valued by Mossi and Dioula peoples as socially equal counterparts? Will Fatoumata and other women in her village finally be respected, treated fairly and seen by local men as the pillars of development in their community? Will Korotimi be able to persuade her husband against forcing their daughters to undergo female circumcision as a rite of passage? Will Jean Marie and his wife, Rashida, stand firm against pressures from their respective big families to trust Allah's will as opposed to practicing family planning? Will 17-year olds Roland and Bibata practice abstinence or safe sex before marriage, so as to prevent a pregnancy that neither are ready to deal with at this time? Will Pierre, a health practitioner, succeed in convincing older men infected with HIV/AIDS that sex with a young virgin girl cannot cure them? Any storyline is possible on *All my Burkinabe Children*, which is influencing changes with respect to the thought processes, attitudes and actions of the Burkinabé people.

It's a beautiful day. Poverty is significantly reduced, human development is characterized by an upward trend, and everyone has something in which to be thankful.

6

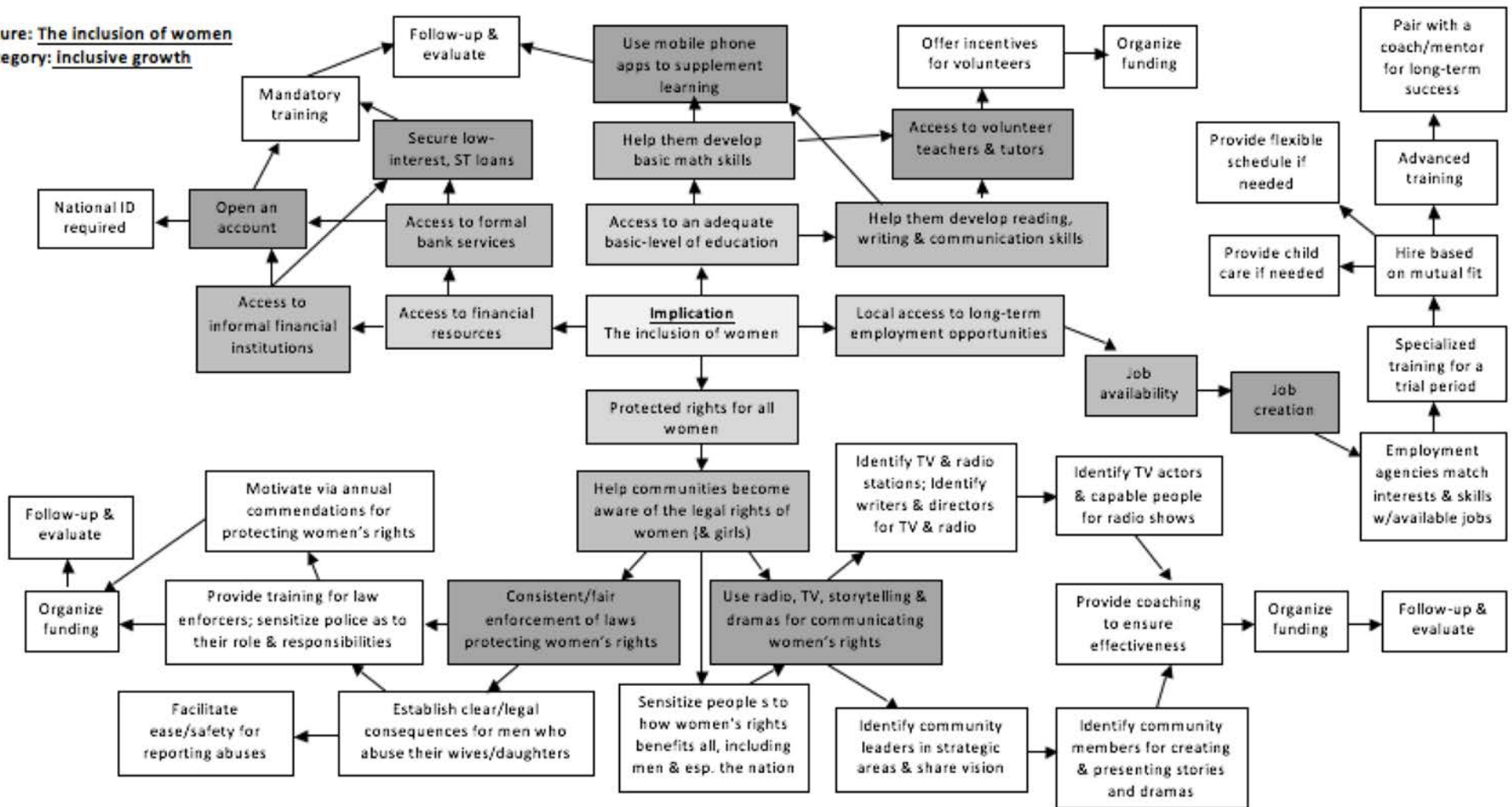
Implications Analysis

“There are practical things in life that secondary school doesn’t even touch upon, for example, how to confront and resolve problems.”⁸⁴

Futures Wheel

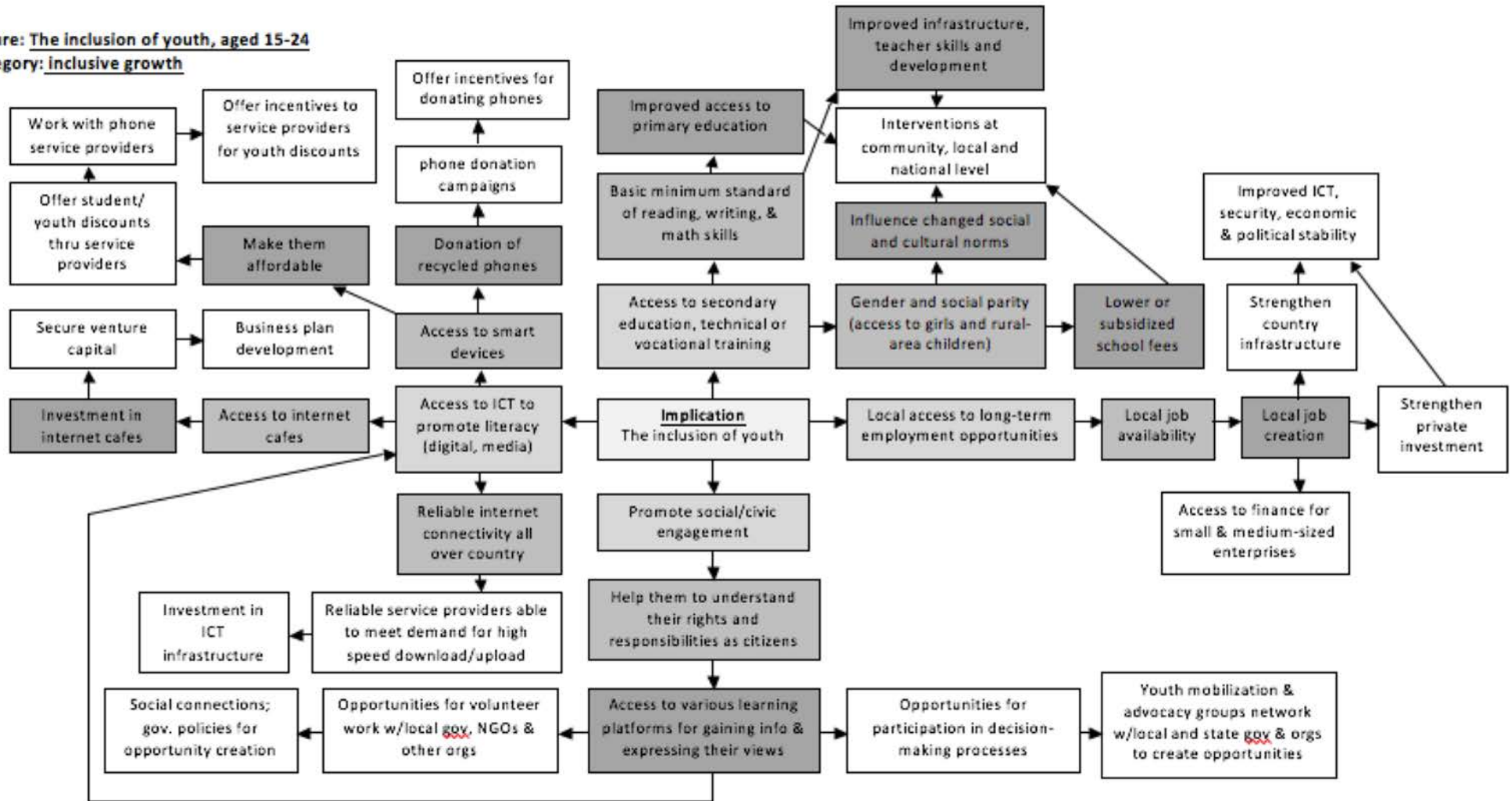
FUTURES WHEEL IMPLICATIONS & ISSUES	
Alternative future	Poverty in Burkina, as characterized by region-level poverty determinants, is rapidly decreasing, driven by the interaction of effective poverty reduction strategies.
UNDP	For the UNDP, the main categories of activities for developing countries are: inclusive growth, better services, environmental sustainability, good governance and security. Category of focus: inclusive growth
Most important implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In order to promote long-term sustainable development and the reduction of poverty, inclusive growth among women must be prioritized. 2. Inclusive growth among young adults aged 15-24 is critical for engaging their participation in the future direction of the country. 3. As rural-area people represent the largest population size in the country, their inclusion relative to the economic stability of the country is necessary.
Most Provocative Implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inclusive growth among women – access to formal banking resources. 2. Inclusive growth among young adults aged 15-24 – opportunities for participating in decision-making processes at the community, local and national levels. 3. Inclusion of rural-area people – sustainable climate mitigation and adaption.
Most Important Issue	Inclusive growth among women - access to a basic level of education and access to financial resources.
Most Provocative Issue	Inclusive growth among women - the use of radio and television programming to sensitize the nation as to the rights of women, and the crucial role women play in development.

Future: The inclusion of women
Category: inclusive growth



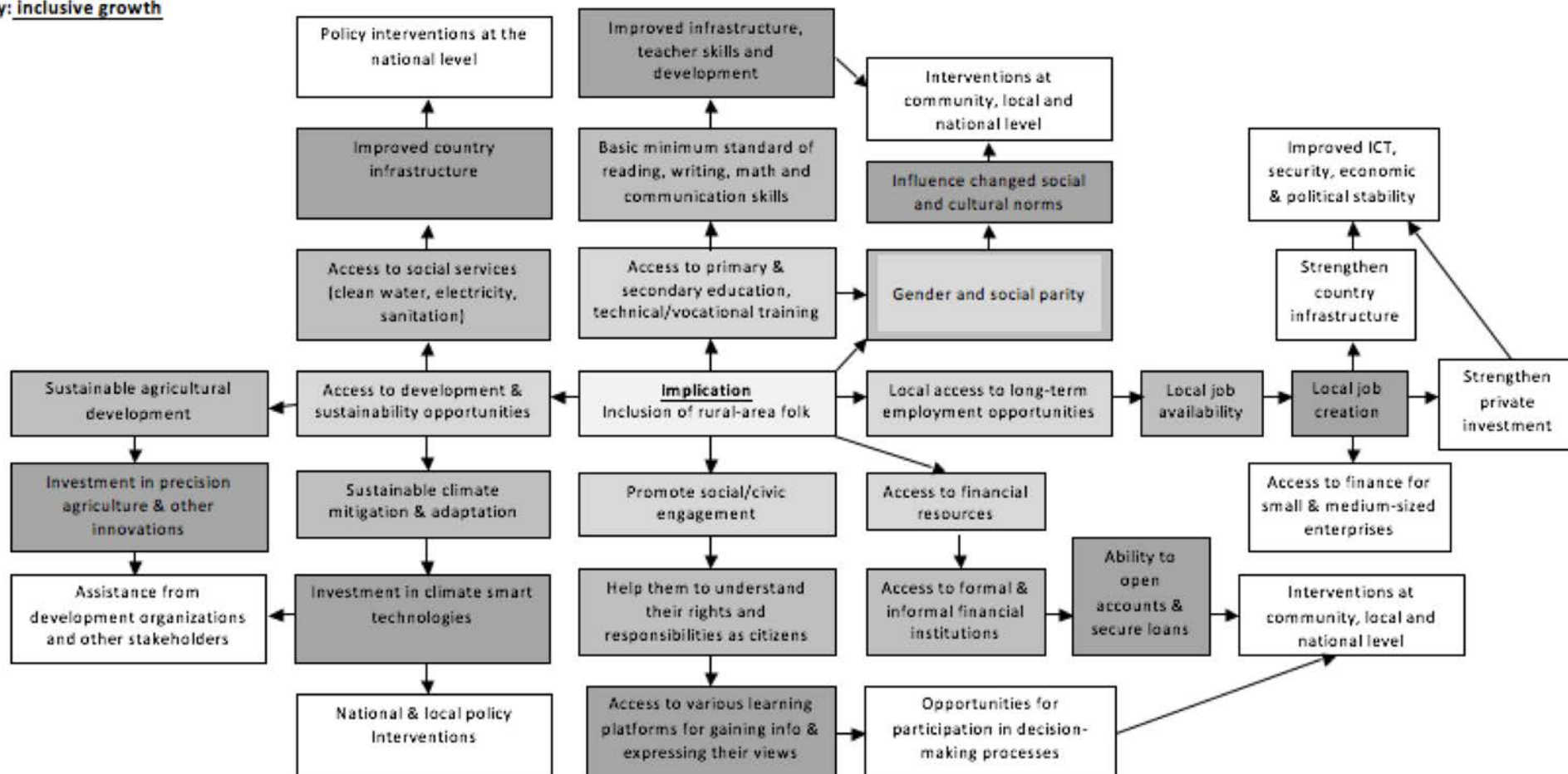
Future: The inclusion of youth, aged 15-24

Category: inclusive growth



Future: The inclusion of rural-area people

Category: Inclusive growth





Options

“If you educate a man, you educate an individual. If you educate a woman, you educate a nation”.⁸⁵

Elevator Speech

THE FUTURE OF POVERTY IN BURKINA FASO, RELATIVE TO REGION-LEVEL CHARACTERISTICS – ISSUE 1

What is the issue?

Inclusive growth among women: access to a basic level of education as well as access to formal and informal financial resources.

Why is it important?

The education of girls and women “is one of the most highly leveraged investments that a developing country can make in its future.” There is considerable evidence that points to the education of girls as a key driver of the reduction in child malnutrition and the risk of HIV/AIDS infection, and the increase in food security and economic growth. As well, “educated girls become educated women who employ their expanded knowledge and improved financial situation to provide for their children,” which influences a continuous cycle of empowerment, as opposed to a continuous cycle of poverty.⁸⁶

What should the UNDP do about it?

The UNDP should work alongside of Burkina Faso’s government towards: equipping Burkinabé women through education so that at the very minimum, they develop basic math, reading, writing and communication skills, and empowering them to start small business enterprises by improving their access to low-interest bearing loans. It’s going to take more than laws and policy reforms to make the inclusion of Burkinabé women a reality, as these measures are already in place but have produced very little change towards gender equality. It’s going to require an understanding of Burkinabé worldviews and power structures, as determined by community socio-cultural norms and which can vary from ethnic group to ethnic group or village to village, and helping to influence change.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has identified some actions that should be taken. One, listen to and engage influential community leaders, group, political and religious leaders in dialogue, and share with them knowledge and insights as to the importance and relevance of education of and entrepreneurial opportunities for women. And two, partner with established community and faith-based networks towards common objectives, providing “evidenced-based approaches” as to their effectiveness.

Collaboration with these networks “lend credibility and familiarity to new initiatives, and reduce the perception of changes being imposed by external actors”.⁸⁷

How can the UNDP make it happen?

- Provide technical support to local human rights organizations.
- Provide funding for community-oriented dialogues.
- Provide funding for basic educational courses, trainings that teach women the basics of business development and management, and small-business start-ups.

Who Owns it?

Responsibility for the inclusion of Burkinabé women should be owned by the Burkina Faso government. As such, the government should make gender equality a key result area of its accelerated poverty reduction strategy. Also, once informed of women’s rights, Burkinabé individuals and communities must participate in decisions that affect their development.⁸⁸

THE FUTURE OF POVERTY IN BURKINA FASO, RELATIVE TO REGION-LEVEL CHARACTERISTICS – ISSUE 2

What is the issue?

Inclusive growth among women - the use of radio and television programming to sensitize the nation as to Burkinabé women's human rights, and the crucial role women play in development.

Why is it important?

The UN was “founded on the principles of peace, justice, freedom and human rights”, and since then, some UN agencies have adopted a human-rights approach to their development work, as suggested in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guide.⁸⁹ However, despite surmounting evidence that point to gender empowerment as the central factor for reducing poverty in developing countries and promoting development, gender equality, including the rights of women to “dignity [and] freedom from want or fear”, remains an elusive achievement. If Burkina is to bring about an alternative future characterized by rapidly decreasing poverty and improved human development, Burkinabé women must be empowered, which will empower whole families and “have a ripple effect on future generations”.⁹⁰

What should the UNDP do about it?

One of the more provocative things UN agencies can do is to help fund a soap opera that promotes behavioral/social change with respect to gender relations, social and gender equity, sexual and reproductive health, nutrition and child protection, similar to the soap opera produced in Burundi.⁹¹ For villages/communities without access to television programming but with access to radio broadcasting, these agencies can help produce radio soaps with the same messages.

How can the UNDP make it happen?

The Segal Family Foundation supports “exemplary organizations” working towards local and scalable solutions to challenges faced by Sub-Saharan African countries.⁹² Population Media Center (PMC) “creates long-running dramas for TV, radio, and the web . . . [which] have a unique capacity for not only raising awareness among large numbers of people about critical issues such as women's rights, reproductive health, and girls' education – but for actually motivating audiences to adopt new behaviors.”⁹³ Funding from the Segal Family Foundation and/or other interested stakeholders along with collaboration between UN agencies, PMC and Burkina Faso's government is required for producing television and radio soaps, with the possibility of expanding to internet soaps, in Burkina for improving the quality of life of women and girls through acknowledgement of their rights.

Who Owns it?

Responsibility for the inclusion of Burkinabé women should be owned by the Burkina Faso government. As such, the government should make gender equality a key result area of its accelerated poverty reduction strategy. Also, once informed of women's rights, Burkinabé individuals and communities must participate in decisions that affect their development.⁹⁴



8

Summary

This foresight project, guided by the Framework Foresight Method, presents a baseline future view and a possible alternative future view of poverty in Burkina Faso in 2025. The future of poverty (relative to region-level characteristics) in the baseline future is characterized by slow decline. Driven by the interaction of: limited poverty reduction strategies that target the poor in rural areas, inadequate access to school services and resources, increased climate shocks, weak political, economic and market stability, slow progress towards improved infrastructure, continuing inequity but improved governance, poverty in Burkina will start to rise if these forces remain constant over time. The implication of the baseline future is that the UNDP may not realize its long-term sustainable development goal for Burkina by 2025.

The future of poverty in the alternative future is characterized by rapid decline. Its accelerated reduction rate is driven by the interaction of: effective poverty reduction strategies that target the poor in rural areas, youth aged 15-24, access to government-provided services, decreasing climate shocks, strong political, economic and market stability, good governance, improved country infrastructure as well as social and gender equality. The implication of the alternative future is that the UNDP will move closer to realizing its long-term sustainable development goal for Burkina by 2025.

In order to promote long-term sustainable development and the reduction of poverty, inclusive growth among women must be prioritized. Equip them through education so that at the very minimum, they develop basic math, reading, writing and communication skills. And empower them to start small business enterprises by improving their access to low-interest bearing loans.

Inclusive growth among young adults aged 15-24 is critical for engaging their participation in the future direction of the country. Access to both primary and secondary education should be prioritized, with emphasis on secondary school completion. Invest in digital education innovations that will allow users to access them via mobile phones. Can help students learn basic and perhaps advanced educational skills, while helping improve teacher skills and capabilities.

As rural-area people represent the largest population size in the country, their inclusion relative to the economic stability of the country is necessary. They should have access to adequate education, financial resources, water & utilities. Invest in smart-climate agriculture, a sustainable way to mitigate climate change impacts. Invest in renewable energy technologies, a sustainable way to provide electricity, clean water, sanitation, etc.

Appendix: References, Scan Hits & Endnotes

References

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Title	Primary school for all ‘not until 2042’ says UNESCO	Author	Sean Coughlan
Brief source	BBC, Shaping Tomorrow	Date	Sept. 6, 2016
STEEP Category/s	Social	Keywords	Primary education, UNESCO, Sustainable Development Goals, Sub-Saharan Africa, Burkina Faso
URL	http://www.bbc.com/news/education-37275627		

Type	Actual event	New trend	New cycle	New plan	Potential event	New information	New Issue	
Brief description of the item	UNESCO, a UN agency, warns that the target set by international leaders for all primary-age children to have at minimum a primary education by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is likely to be missed if the current rate of progress towards achievement of this target is an indication. According to the UN, it may be 2042 before this target is reached.							
How could the future be different as a result?	UNESCO links a greater access to primary and secondary education to greater country stability, economic prosperity and peace as well as improved health. Moreover, it reports that an inequality in primary and secondary education “heightens the risk of violence and conflict” in poor, least-educated countries. While UNESCO cites “chronic under-financing for education” as the reason for the slowed progress in reaching the 2030 SDG target, it also points to conflict in poor countries such as Burkina Faso as a factor that limits access to schools. As studies have shown there to be a positive causal relationship between education and poverty, missing the 2030 SDG goal in Burkina may mean slowed progress in reducing the number of poverty incidences in the country or its overall poverty rate. As such, the inability of the Burkina government to provide at least a primary education to primary-age children may signal the possibility of only a slight reduction of poverty in Burkina by 2025, if at all, owing to interventions that target other sectors.							
What are the potential implications for...?	...the Client:	UNDP						
	The UNDP has a vested interest in seeing all countries and especially economically growing countries achieve this 2030 SDG target with respect to education for primary-age children, as the “achievement of universal primary education” was one of the 8 original MDGs for reducing extreme poverty by half all around the world. Having reported that the international community missed the 2015 target for achieving the MDGs, the UNDP may be said by some to overreach with respect to the dates it sets for achieving the SDGs or other goals, or to lack the strategic thinking required for better understanding the nature of poverty as part of a complex, multidimensional system that requires setting realistic targets based on realistic expectations.							
Overall effect <i>(bold one)</i>	Confirming (baseline scenario)	Creating (a new scenario)	Resolving (between two scenarios)		Impact <i>(0-5)</i>	5	Plausibility <i>(0-5)</i>	5
Baseline, new or resolved scenario(s)	This scan hit confirms a baseline scenario in which poverty in Burkina will most likely remain the same, when considering education as a region-level social service.				Novelty <i>(0-5)</i>	1	Timeliness <i>(0-5)</i>	1
Scanner	Kimberly R. Daniels				Date	September 18, 2016		

Title	Swarms of precision agriculture robots could help put food on the table	Author	Vito Trianni, Joris IJsselmuiden, Ramon Haken
Brief source	Robohub	Date	October 21, 2016
STEEP Category/s	Technological	Keywords	Agriculture, robots
URL	http://robohub.org/swarms-of-precision-agriculture-robots-could-help-put-food-on-the-table/		

Type <i>(bold one)</i>	Actual event	New trend	New cycle	New plan	Potential event	New information	New issue	
Brief description of the item	A European funded research project called SAGA: Swarm Robotics for Agricultural Applications will use interacting miniature drones to locate clusters of weeds, and apply mechanical rather than chemical solutions for managing them, which is in line with organic farming practices. The drones will accurately inspect only those areas of farmland that are infested by weeds. As well, their miniature nature means no soil compaction. This SAGA project combines innovative technology with human control and collective intelligence to engender precision farming.							
How could the future be different as a result?	Application of the SAGA agricultural innovation in Burkina will mean reduced human labor in managing weeds. As well it will mean reduced reliance on chemical insecticides in treating weeds, thereby protecting human, animal, soil and ecosystem health. Overall, it could mean greater farm productivity, better quality of health and increased economic growth.							
What are the potential implications for...?	...the Client:	UNDP						
	Application of this technology to Burkina's agricultural sector targets UNDP Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) goals pertaining to good health and well-being (SDG 3), industry, decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), and innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9).							
Overall effect <i>(bold one)</i>	Confirming (baseline scenario)	Creating (a new scenario)	Resolving (between two scenarios)		Impact <i>(0-5)</i>	4	Plausibility <i>(0-5)</i>	3
Baseline, new or resolved scenario(s)	This represents a resolved scenario in which we see improved agricultural productivity leading to increased GDP and a greater likelihood of sustained poverty reduction.				Novelty <i>(0-5)</i>	4	Timeliness <i>(0-5)</i>	4
Scanner	Kimberly R. Daniels				Date Submitted	October 30, 2016		

Title	Tanzania Looks into Geothermal Energy	Author	unidentified
Brief source	ESI Africa	Date	February 9, 2016
STEEP Category/s	Social, Economic, Environmental, Technological	Keywords	Geothermal energy, power, electricity
URL	https://www.esi-africa.com/news/tanzania-looks-into-geothermal-energy		

Type	<p style="text-align: center;"> Actual event New trend New cycle New plan Potential event New information New issue </p>						
Brief description of the item	In addition to Kenya and Ethiopia, Tanzania was to begin drilling in June of this year in areas across the country where geothermal power could potentially be produced. The decision to begin exploiting geothermal energy is in response to the elevated shortage of power/electricity in the country.						
How could the future be different as a result?	The use of renewable energy technologies, such as solar, wind and geothermal power, has the potential of alleviating problems Burkina faces with respect to the inability to adequately maintain or increase access to electricity and clean water across the country. If the transition to renewable energy is done sustainably such that it protects the environment and prioritizes human rights, it could result in long-term benefits for Burkina that may be duplicated in other poor West African countries.						
What are the potential implications for...?	...the Client:	UNDP					
	UNDP Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) specifies access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Making reliable and cost-effective energy accessible to urban and rural areas can serve as the catalyst for reducing poverty and stimulating economic growth in Burkina, especially since agricultural activities, households, certain business activities and school systems require abundant energy resources. Though costs associated with the construction of geothermal plants and the exploration of geothermal energy are relatively high for poor countries, low maintenance costs as well as the renewable nature of geothermal energy could mean long-term future benefits. ¹						
Overall effect <i>(bold one)</i>	Confirming (baseline scenario)	Creating (a new scenario)	Resolving (between two scenarios)	Impact <i>(0-5)</i>	4	Plausibility <i>(0-5)</i>	4
Baseline, new or resolved scenario(s)	Presently, only 5% of rural-area Burkinabé have access to electricity. In the baseline future, the annual growth rate of access to electricity is expected to remain at 0%. As well, electricity interruptions are expected to increase, especially during the dry season. The use of renewable energy technologies, such as geothermal, solar and wind power could transform Burkina's economy. As such, this creates a new scenario.			Novelty <i>(0-5)</i>	2	Timeliness <i>(0-5)</i>	3
Scanner	Kimberly R. Daniels			Date	October 28, 2017		

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renewable_energy_in_Africa

Title	Africa Becoming More Attractive to US Clothing Brands	Author	David Simmonds
Brief source	Shaping Tomorrow	Date	September 26, 2016
STEEP Category/s	Social, Economic	Keywords	Africa, US clothing brands, textile/clothing market, labor
URL	http://umaizi.com/africa-becoming-more-attractive-to-us-clothing-brands		

Type	Actual event	New trend	New cycle	New plan	Potential event	New information	New issue	
Brief description of the item	Plagued by increasing wage demands and labor-rights issues in China and factory safety issues in Bangladesh, some US clothing brands expect to increase the outsourcing of clothing production by 25% in the next 5 years to certain African countries, where labor is more abundant and cheaper than in Asia, foreign work-permit visas less expensive, and electricity costs lower as a result of investments in renewable energy. While the largest number of jobs in developing countries falls within the agricultural sector, the second largest number of jobs in developing West African countries falls within the textile and clothing sector, worth over \$31 billion. Under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), East African countries Ethiopia and Kenya are exempt from paying duties in US markets, and could potentially rise as global competitors in clothing manufacturing.							
How could the future be different as a result?	Presently, the agricultural sector in Burkina Faso accounts for 85% of jobs and contributes 31.5% to the country's relatively low GDP. Increasing climate change and climate variability continue to threaten the agricultural sector, which impacts jobs, livelihoods and food security. Already, we're seeing increasing numbers of youth in Burkina reject agricultural work as the source of their livelihood in favor of government/office work. If Burkina makes market-oriented education, renewable energy and infrastructure investment a top priority, support business development and diversifies free trade agreements in the next 5 years, like Ethiopia and Kenya it may attract US clothing brands looking to outsource clothing production to African countries. We will see changes in Burkina's social structure as young, educated and skilled workers choose industrial- over agricultural-based labor. As well, we'll see a reduction in poverty in the country by 2025.							
What are the potential implications for...?	...the Client:	UNDP						
	The UNDP's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include goals pertaining to the eradication of poverty and hunger, economic growth and improved infrastructure in developing countries. Transitioning from an agricultural- to a market-based economy which benefits from US clothing brand outsourcing will help reduce poverty in Burkina, allowing the UNDP to realize the three aforementioned SDG goals.							
Overall effect <i>(bold one)</i>	Confirming (baseline scenario)	Creating (a new scenario)	Resolving (between two scenarios)		Impact <i>(0-5)</i>	4	Plausibility <i>(0-5)</i>	4
Baseline, new or resolved scenario(s)	This creates a new scenario in which we see a reduction of poverty in Burkina.				Novelty <i>(0-5)</i>	4	Timeliness <i>(0-5)</i>	3
Scanner	Kimberly R. Daniels				Date	September 28, 2016		

Title	Internet Monopolies Could be Ending in Africa	Author	Bram Posthumus
Brief source	VOA News	Date	October 15, 2016
STEEP Category/s	Technology	Keywords	Africa, Burkina Faso, Telecommunications, Internet, ISP
URL	http://www.voanews.com/a/internet-monopolies-could-be-ending-in-africa/3553369.html		

Type	Actual event	New trend	New cycle	New plan	Potential event	New information	New issue
Brief description of the item	Presently, ONATEL is Burkina Faso’s only internet service provider (ISP), making it a monopoly. In late September and continuing into October 2016 discontented ONATEL employees chose to strike, leaving customers all over the country without internet access. Burkina is among other African countries having only one ISP, but this is about to change. Already, a French company has begun laying fiber optic cable in the country, which will serve as competition for ONATEL.						
How could the future be different as a result?	As a landlocked, poor West African country, Burkina has a small ISP customer base. The high price of internet connectivity coupled with poor infrastructure (a national-level poverty characteristic) make internet connectivity something only a few—large organizations or institutions, higher-income individuals and expatriates—can afford. By bringing in one or more ISP competitors, we’ll see a decrease in connectivity costs, an increase in smart phone purchases, an increase in internet usage and social media, as well as increased interactions between the Burkinabé and the international community.						
What are the potential implications for...?	...the Client:	UNDP					
	One of the UNDP’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is “Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation” (http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/infrastructure-industrialization). A competing ISP in Burkina will improve its communication technology infrastructure, bringing the country one more step towards sustainable development.						
Overall effect <i>(bold one)</i>	Confirming (baseline scenario)	Creating (a new scenario)	Resolving (between two scenarios)	Impact <i>(0-5)</i>	4	Plausibility <i>(0-5)</i>	5
Baseline, new or resolved scenario(s)	This information confirms the baseline scenario that points to investments in and improvement of Burkina’s infrastructure.			Novelty <i>(0-5)</i>	2	Timeliness <i>(0-5)</i>	2
Scanner	Kimberly R. Daniels			Date	October 17, 2016		

Endnotes

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- ¹ Bragg, W. G. (1984). Beyond development to transformation. *International Review of Mission*, 73(290), 153-165, p. 157
- ² Senge, P. M. (1990). *The fifth discipline: The art & practice of the learning organization*. New York: Doubleday, chapter 1 title
- ³ Maser, 1997, pp. 118-119
- ⁴ <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/overview.html>
- ⁵ <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/sustainable-development/overview.html>
- ⁶ Bayley, A., & Nyika, M. W. (2011). *More and better food: Farming, climate change, health and the AIDS epidemic*. Oxford: Strategies for Hope Trust.
- ⁷ The World Bank, 2002, Mahatma Gandhi, p. 13
- ⁸ Bayley & Nyika, 2011, p. 23
- ⁹ www.worldometers.info/world-population/burkina-faso-population
- ¹⁰ <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.PRM.ENRR?locations=BF>
- ¹¹ <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/YouthPOP.pdf>.
- ¹² <http://bmcpregnancychildbirth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12884-016-0875-2>
- ¹³ Electricity interruptions are increasing due to an increase in demand during the hot/dry seasons, an increase in the connections of new customers in the capital city, and a disrupted supply of electricity by Burkina's neighbor, Côte d'Ivoire. <http://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/11/8/084010/pdf>
- ¹⁴ <http://www.pewglobal.org/2016/02/22/smartphone-ownership-and-internet-usage-continues-to-climb-in-emerging-economies>
- ¹⁵ Airtel, one of the country's mobile phone service providers, provides a service called Airtel Money, which allows subscribers to transfer money to others using their mobile phones, pay for purchases in shops and pay utility bills, with plans to expand its capabilities and accessibility in the future. <http://www.pcworld.com/article/2899992/orange-money-deal-with-airtel-in-west-africa-part-of-expansion-plan.html>.
- ¹⁶ http://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/SOTIR_2015.pdf
- ¹⁷ This significantly impacts Burkina, an exporter of gold and cotton. <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/reo/2016/afr/eng/pdf/sreo0416.pdf>
- ¹⁸ <http://www.foodsecurityportal.org/latest-fao-food-price-trend-report-released>
- ¹⁹ <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2016/cr16173.pdf>
- ²⁰ <https://www.undp-aap.org/countries/burkina-faso>
- ²¹ <http://adaptation-undp.org/explore/western-africa/burkina-faso>
- ²² <http://www.livelihoods.eu/burkina-faso-a-public-private-partnership-to-fight-desertification-and-land-degradation>
- ²³ Because of the success of past terrorist events, further attacks are expected to happen in the future, raising concerns in countries such as Burkina as to the ability of security forces to handle them http://www.acleddata.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/ACLED_Conflict-Trends-Report-No.47-April-2016_pdf.pdf
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