n Burkina Faso, malnutrition and especially undernutrition among women of childbearing age and children under five years of age contributes to unnecessary maternal, newborn and child deaths. This negatively impacts the economic and social development of the country.\(^1\)

The main causes of maternal mortality in Burkina are hemorrhages, infections and uterine rupture.\(^2\) Nutrition interventions such as iron and folic acid supplementation prevent anemia in pregnant women and can limit the possible complications of post partum haemorrhage. Monitoring weight gain during pregnancy helps to ensure that pregnant women gain a healthy weight and prevent low birth weight.

Undernutrition is associated with 35% of infant deaths.\(^3\) The risk of mortality is two times higher in infants who are not put to the breast within the first hour of birth.\(^4\) For children who are not exclusively breastfed during the first six months of life, the risk of dying is three to four times higher than for those exclusively breastfed in low- and middle-income countries.\(^4\)

The National scaling up plan for promotion of optimal infant and young child (IYCF) feeding practices has set targets for 2025 of 80% exclusive breastfeeding and 30% minimum acceptable diet for children aged 6-23 months to reduce infant mortality and prevent malnutrition. Meeting this challenge requires changes in family practices as well as improvements in the quality and coverage of health services. This profile focuses on key nutrition-related indicators in the Sud-Ouest Region.
I. HEALTH AND NUTRITION INDICATORS

Trends in stunting of children (0-59 months) in the Sud-Ouest Region compared to the national level from 2010 to 2018 [6]

Status of malnutrition among children < 5 years of age in 2018 [6]

Maternal health indicators

Prevalence of underweight among women of reproductive age (Body mass index <18.5 kg/m²) (WRA) [7]

Prevalence of anemia among women of reproductive age (%) [8]

Maternal and child health indicators

Maternal mortality rate (100,000 live births) [9]

Infant mortality rate (per thousand live births) [9]

Low birth weight [9]

Maternal, infant and young child nutrition practices in the region in 2018 [6]

Food security (Prevalence of food insecure households) [10]

Proportion of children < 5 years with diarrhea (2 weeks before the ENN 2018) [6]


II. CAUSES OF UNDERNUTRITION

Maternal, infant and young child nutrition practices in the region in 2018 [6]

Dietary diversity of WRA

Early initiation of breastfeeding (EIBF)

Exclusive breastfeeding (EBF)

Continued breastfeeding at 1 year

Minimum meal frequency

Minimum dietary diversity in children aged 6-23 months

Median age of first marriages and first childbirth [7]

Immediate Actions

Systematically promote breastfeeding: EIBF and EBF

Focus on food diversification for women and children aged 6 to 23 months

Focus on food diversity by promoting multisectoral actions.
III. NUTRITION PROMOTION PLATFORMS, AND ANTENATAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE INDICATORS

Coverage of maternal and neonatal health services by platform of care in the region in 2018

- ANC1: Sud-Ouest 85.1%, National 79%
- ANC T1: Sud-Ouest 45.4%, National 49%
- ANC4: Sud-Ouest 63.3%, National 59.1%
- AD: Sud-Ouest 41.1%, National 39.8%
- PNC 6th day: Sud-Ouest 85.8%, National 83.1%
- PNC 6th week: Sud-Ouest 81.7%, National 78.2%

Household media use in the region in 2018

- Households owning at least one radio: Sud-Ouest 43.5%, National 42%
- Possession of a personal radio: Sud-Ouest 52.2%, National 41.7%
- Acknowledge that radio broadcasts affect nutrition behavior: Sud-Ouest 85.2%, National 76.4%

PRIORITY ACTIONS

- Ensure the effective integration of malnutrition prevention interventions into reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health platforms (ANC, assisted delivery, PNC, Well-Child Visit/Growth Monitoring and Promotion, IMCI) by the health facilities.
- Strengthen the capacity and supervision of providers and ASBCs for the implementation of the maternal nutrition and IYCF package.
- Strengthen the systematic collection and use of data on maternal, newborn and child nutrition interventions.
### Definitions

**Child mortality:** Number of deaths of children under 5 years of age (from all causes) per 1000 live births over a period of 5 years

**Maternal mortality:** Number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births as a proportion of the population at risk over a five-year period.

**Global acute malnutrition (GAM)** is defined by the presence of bilateral edema and/or wasting expressed by a z-weight-for-height (WFH) score < -2SD of the median of the reference population.

**Stunting (chronic malnutrition)** is defined by a height-for-age (HAZ) z-score < -2SD of the median of the reference population.

**Antenatal care (ANC):** Proportion of pregnant women seen in prenatal consultation during a given period.

**Assisted delivery (AD):** Proportion of births assisted by skilled personnel in a health facility during a given period.

**Postnatal care (PNC):** Proportion of women having given birth seen at the 6th week in a postnatal consultation compared to the number of women seen during the period.

**FIC:** Fully immunized child

**MR2:** Second dose of vaccine against measles and rubella

**Vitamin A supplementation:** Proportion of children aged 6-59 months who received a vitamin A capsule in the last 6 months.

**Deworming:** Proportion of children aged 12-59 months who have been dewormed in the last 6 months.

**Minimum dietary diversity for women of reproductive age (WRA):** Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who have consumed at least 5 out of 10 distinct food groups.

**Early initiation of breastfeeding (EIBF):** Proportion of children 0-23 months who were breastfed within one hour of birth.

**Exclusive breastfeeding (EBF):** Proportion of children 0-5 months old who are exclusively breastfed.

**Continued breastfeeding at one year:** Proportion of children aged 12-15 months who are still breastfed.

**Minimum meal frequency:** Proportion of children aged 6-23 months who received solid, semi-solid or soft foods at a minimum frequency (breastfed children 6-8 months: at least 2 meals per day; breastfed children 9-23 months: at least 3 meals per day; non-breastfed children: 6-23 months: 4 meals per day).

**Minimum dietary diversity in children 6 to 23 months:** Proportion of children aged 6-23 months who received at least 4 of 7 distinct food groups.

---

### References

1. Programme alimentaire mondial, Burkina Faso, Le coût de la faim au Burkina Faso, l’incidence sociale et économique de la sous-nutrition chez l’enfant au BF
2. Ministère de la santé, Burkina Faso, Direction générale des études et des statistiques sectorielles, Annuaires statistiques, 2010 à 2018
5. Institut national des statistiques et de la démographie, Burkina Faso, Recensement général de la population et de l’habitation, Projection de la population des régions et districts du pays de 2011-2020 (DGESS 2010)
7. Ministère de la santé, Burkina Faso, Enquête module démographie et santé, 2015
8. Burkina Faso, Ministère de l’Agriculture et de l’aménagement hydraulique, Direction générale des études et des statistiques sectorielles, Evaluation de la situation des ménages en situation d’urgence, 2018
10. UNICEF, Burkina Faso, étude des radios du Burkina Faso : Typologies, audiences et perspectives, Avril 2018