

UNDP

ACADEMIC GUIDE: THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



MUNUR XVII
UNIVERSIDAD DEL ROSARIO

What is MUNUR XVII?



The Model United Nations at the Universidad del Rosario (MUNUR) is the first of its kind at the university level in Colombia. It is a space led and organized entirely by students and for students, designed to foster public speaking, critical thinking, and the development of solutions to the challenges of the international system. MUNUR invites its participants to explore the world, understand the issues of the present, learn from the lessons of the past, and imagine the responses that the future will demand.

Founded as an initiative by students at the Colegio Mayor de Nuestra Señora del Rosario, MUNUR has, over the course of seventeen editions, established a tradition of academic excellence, leadership, and commitment. More than just a model, it is a community where people from different parts of the country and the world come together to strengthen friendships, promote diversity, celebrate inclusion, and demonstrate that respectful dialogue remains the most powerful tool for transforming realities.

For this seventeenth edition, we have decided to look toward the future without losing sight of what has defined us since our inception. Under the theme “Beyond Legacy, Towards Impact,” we seek to go beyond the legacy we’ve built over the years to make a real impact on every delegate, every committee, and every debate. We want this experience to not only develop better speakers and negotiators, but also leaders of integrity who are aware of their ability to transform their surroundings and contribute to a more just, cooperative, and sustainable world.

For this reason, MUNUR XVII offers a wide variety of committees designed to cater to different interests and levels of experience, with innovative activities that will challenge delegates to step outside their comfort zones, put their creativity, negotiation skills, and academic excellence to the test, and discover the true extent of their potential.

This document contains the necessary information for delegates interested in participating in this committee. It should be emphasized that the academic guidelines are merely a suggested research path developed by the Steering Committees. However, it is the responsibility of each participant to prepare thoroughly for the days of debate. We also remind you that all rules of procedure are set forth in this edition’s Handbook, which we recommend all participants read carefully.

At MUNUR XVII, we don’t just debate ideas: we develop leaders, inspire change, and demonstrate that our true legacy is the impact we have on others.

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WELCOME LETTER

Secretary General
Juan David Rincon





Hello, everyone!

My name is Juan David Rincón Vásquez, and in this edition of MUNUR, I have the privilege of serving as Secretary-General.

Whenever I came to this section of the guide, I used to skip it or simply not give it much thought; but today I see firsthand the work, effort, and dedication that come with having the honor of writing these lines. That's why, if you're reading this, I'm immensely grateful to you for recognizing the value behind every word.

If I had to describe my journey at MUNUR from day one in a single word, it would be: challenge. For many people, the word "challenge" may be synonymous with something negative; however, I am convinced that human beings only hone their skills and character when they face situations for which they may not feel fully prepared or that force them to step outside their comfort zone. In the four years I've been participating in this model, I can say that the moments when I've learned and grown the most always coincide with the same dates: late October and early November.

If this is your first time participating in the event, get ready for a truly life-changing experience. But best of all, you won't be alone throughout the process. At MUNUR and the Universidad del Rosario, we're known for doing everything with excellence but, above all, with deep human warmth. Rest assured that you'll see this reflected in every aspect of the model: from the team that will guide you through the registration process, to the tables and support centers that will be there for you at all times, to a Board of Directors fully dedicated to serving every delegate.

Take advantage of this opportunity to grow, debate, put your skills to the test, and, above all, build experiences and friendships that will stay with you for a lifetime.

A warm welcome to everyone at MUNUR XVII!

Juan David Rincón Vasquez

Secretary General of MUNUR XVII

WELCOME LETTER

Sub-secretary General
Andres Acosta





Dear delegates, sponsors, observers, and staff welcome to this new and extraordinary academic and personal experience. Participating in a Model United Nations conference means much more than simply representing a country or debating international issues. It means committing to the values of dialogue, cooperation, and the tireless pursuit of solutions to the challenges facing our global community.

Throughout each session, you will discover that a delegate's true greatness lies not only in delivering good speeches, but in the ability to listen, understand different perspectives, and build consensus.

As an International Relations student and a member of the MUNUR XVII organizing team, I have had the privilege of witnessing the profound impact these experiences have on those who participate in them. Model United Nations programs shape leaders of integrity, inspire vocations, and forge friendships that transcend borders. Through them, we learn that authentic leadership is exercised with humility, responsibility, and a commitment to service.

May this program be the beginning of new dreams and the setting in which you discover the full extent of your own potential. The future of international cooperation needs committed, creative, and courageous leaders, and I am convinced that each of you has the ability to contribute to building that future, and that this seventeenth edition will help you challenge yourselves.

I wish you every success and hope that this experience will remain in your memory as a lasting source of inspiration and growth.

Andrés Acosta

Sub-secretary General of MUNUR XVII

WELCOME LETTER

General Director
Santiago Sepulveda Perez





Dear delegates:

It is a true honor to welcome you to MUNUR XVII. As General Director, I am proud to welcome you to a new edition of this simulation, a forum that, over the course of seventeen editions, has brought together students committed to dialogue, critical thinking, and developing solutions to the challenges facing our world.

Each of you has decided to take on the challenge of representing a country, defending a position, and participating in debates that will require preparation, discipline, negotiation skills, and, above all, a willingness to listen. That decision demonstrates your interest in going beyond the classroom and becoming citizens with a global perspective and a genuine commitment to your community.

MUNUR is much more than a simulation of the United Nations. It is a setting where leadership, advocacy, teamwork, and conflict resolution skills are strengthened, but also where friendships are formed, unforgettable memories are created, and participants discover the enormous impact that a conversation can have when guided by respect and cooperation.

I invite you to take advantage of every committee, every speech, every caucus, and every informal conversation as an opportunity to learn and grow. Don't be afraid to defend your ideas, question your own perspectives, and build consensus. It is precisely these moments that make a Model United Nations a transformative experience.

I want to thank you for placing your trust in MUNUR XVII and for being part of this edition. Behind this Model United Nations stands a team that has worked diligently for months to offer you an academic and personal experience of the highest quality, and we hope that each of you will find here a space where you can challenge yourselves, learn, and enjoy yourselves.

Welcome to this new edition. I am confident that, with your commitment, enthusiasm, and talent, we will make MUNUR XVII a memorable experience.

I wish you every success and look forward to seeing you make your mark on this edition.

Sincerely,

Santiago Sepúlveda Pérez

General Director, MUNUR XVII

WELCOME LETTER

General sub-director
Carolina Echeverri Echeverria





Dear delegates:

I extend my warmest welcome to you all at MUNUR XVII. As General Sub-director, it is a privilege to greet you and to see how this model, now in its seventeenth edition, continues to be a breeding ground for critical thinkers, empathetic leaders, and young people committed to the future of our society.

Taking on the role of a nation's spokesperson and defending its interests requires courage, preparation, and discipline, but above all, a tremendous willingness to listen and build consensus. That determination that brings you here today is what makes a Model United Nations a truly transformative experience.

Beyond diplomatic rigor and committee debates, MUNUR is a setting for personal growth where networks are forged, friendships are formed, and lasting memories are created. I encourage you to make the most of every caucus, every statement, and every exchange to challenge yourselves, question perspectives, and learn from your peers.

Behind MUNUR XVII is an extraordinary team that has taken care of every detail to ensure you have an unforgettable academic and personal experience. Make the most of every space we have prepared for you.

I wish you the greatest success during this event. May your ideas and voices leave an indelible mark on this edition.

With appreciation and admiration,

Carolina Echeverri,

General Sub-director, MUNUR XVII

WELCOME LETTER

USG of United Nations

Sara Velilla





To all delegates, sponsors, general staff and visitors... Welcome to MUNUR XVII! My name is Sara Velilla, I'm twenty one years old and a student of International Relations.

First and foremost, I'm very excited and honored to be able to work with my fellow USG, Sara Buitrago. We've teamed up to create innovative, rigorous and entertaining committees for this edition. I deeply admire the personal touch we have both put into the project.

I would also like to recognize the job done by our excellent DAIS. Thank you for believing in our ideas from the very beginning, but most importantly: thank you for helping us shape them. This has been a mutual project at all levels. We wish them all the best success (and fun) during the days of the model. They are highly qualified for this challenge.

So, for us, academic quality is a priority. Nonetheless, we have made sure to build our project on other important values as well. We strive for a safe space where diplomacy stands out. We vow to promote respect among all presents, so that we can all enjoy the great debates and dilemmas that will surely arise in the committees. And for that, Sara and I will be available at all times to clear any doubts or settle any misunderstanding that arises.

Enjoy the little moments before reading the opening speech, when your hands could be trembling. Enjoy bumping into your friends after the session has ended. These are the moments we remember, and the moments we value. That is why I treasure my MUN memories with my whole heart. I want to thank all the friends life has given me through these spaces. I surely am because you all are. You have a big big place in my heart.

And so that's all! Without more to say, good luck!

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WELCOME LETTER

USG of United Nations

Sara Buitrago





Dear delegates, it is an honor for me to extend a warm welcome to you all to this edition of MUNUR XVII.

My name is Sara Buitrago López. I am 18 years old and a student of International Relations and Economics at the Universidad del Rosario. Alongside Sara Velilla, we have the honor of serving as the Under Secretary General for the United Nations committees at MUNUR XVII.

We are truly grateful to have the opportunity to help ensure that your experience in Models of United Nations is as enriching for you as it has been for us. These forums go far beyond debate; they are spaces where delegates develop leadership and public speaking skills and, above all, learn how to give voice to their ideas. We encourage you to see these committees as an opportunity to build the confidence needed to discover everything that can be achieved through negotiation and diplomacy.

With Saris and our working teams, we have worked to ensure that our committees maintain a strong academic focus. The topics you will discuss, from the risks of military air operations and the prevention of religious violence to investment arbitration and food security, are all highly relevant to today's international agenda. We hope that each of you leaves every committee with a deeper understanding of these issues and with knowledge of the diplomatic tools available to address them.

At the same time, delegates, MUNUR is much more than an academic experience. It is an opportunity to meet new people, build lasting friendships, and create memories that will stay with you long after the conference ends. Make the most of every debate, every speech, and every resolution you draft with your bloc, because what truly makes a Model United Nations unforgettable is the people with whom you share the experience.

Welcome to MUNUR XVII. We hope these four days become a time of learning, growth, and unforgettable moments, and that you carry every experience you live here with you long after the model comes to an end.

With that said, I wish you all the very best of luck!

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Welcome letter from the Honorable Dais

Miguel Velasco Restrepo, Nicole Sofía Arango Richter and Isabella Mejía Antequera.

First and foremost, we would like to thank you for taking part in making this edition of MUNUR XVII possible, without your participation, we wouldn't be able to make this dream come true. As your dais, we believe in the importance of understanding global challenges through specific case studies that, even though they may seem distant, ultimately shape our everyday lives. This perspective is precisely the one we will adopt in this United Nations Development Programme committee, addressing challenges for building long term capacity for food resilient systems in the context of changing climate.

By examining how food supply chains in countries such as Bolivia and Burkina Faso are shaped not only by climate change, but also by factors like conflict, geographic constraints, and domestic vulnerabilities, this committee will explore strategies that do not seek to eliminate these challenges outright, but to work within them. The goal is to design mechanisms that strengthen resilience, protect food systems, and ensure long-term sustainability.

We would like to introduce the members of the DAIS who will be moderating this committee. Starting with Miguel Velasco, a seventh-semester student of International Business at EAFIT University in Medellín. He values debates supported by solid arguments with strong academic research with critical analysis and well built knowledge. His academic interests include global governance, sustainable development and supply chain matters. In his free time, he enjoys learning new languages, listening to music, roller-skating and discovering new restaurants with his beloved ones. A fun fact about him is despite being half-paisa/half-caleño, he can't dance Salsa.

Next, we have Nicole Sofía Arango Richter, a student of Global Studies and Political Science at Universidad de Los Andes. One of her greatest academic passions lies in humanitarian and social affairs, particularly in understanding how global challenges can be approached through solutions that place human dignity at the centre. Since joining Model United Nations, she has viewed these spaces as opportunities to engage more closely with the world's challenges, step beyond our usual perspectives and comfort zones, and collectively explore new ways of understanding and addressing complex global issues. Outside of academics, Nicole deeply enjoys spending time in nature and finding value in life's simplest pleasures. She loves quiet afternoons in parks, feeling the sun, going on picnics, taking walks and valuing the simple yet beautiful moments.

As part of the Dais, she hopes to see a high level of academic rigor and commitment from all delegates. She expects participants to approach this committee with seriousness, to research thoroughly, and truly engage with the topic in order to develop well-founded solutions rather than overly general proposals. Nicole values excellence, preparation, and healthy competitiveness, always grounded in respect, integrity, and kindness toward others. She hopes this committee inspires delegates to think about a better world and to approach historically overlooked regions with a more critical, informed, and responsible perspective.

Last, but certainly not least, Isabella Mejía Antequera is a law student at Universidad del Rosario. Originally from Barranquilla, she has built a strong academic and extracurricular path, with particular interests in private law—especially intellectual property and contractual law—as well as international public law. Her journey in Model United Nations spans over a decade, during which she has served not only as a delegate but also in leadership roles, leading her to strongly value an academic and realistic approach to debates. Beyond academics, Isa enjoys English literature and history, playing tennis, and spending time with the people closest to her.

As Chair, she will be looking for a committee environment that is competitive yet respectful, where delegates understand that strong debate is not measured only by the intensity of speeches, but by the precision of the

ideas being defended. Isa hopes delegates approach the topic with the seriousness of a real policy negotiation: identifying not only what should be done, but also who would implement it, under which mandate, with what resources, and through what institutional channels. Discussions on food security and climate change should therefore move beyond broad declarations of urgency and engage with the harder questions of cooperation, financing, coordination, and long-term feasibility.

We expect this committee to reflect the importance of cooperation, resilience, and innovation in addressing global food security challenges. Delegates are expected to come thoroughly prepared and ready to engage at a high level, contributing to dynamic, thoughtful, and solution-oriented debate. As your DAIS, we will be attentive to your needs, while maintaining high expectations in terms of academic rigor and procedural standards.

Best wishes!

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ABSTRACT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) stands as the leading development agency within the United Nations system tasked with strengthening the institutional capacity of States to confront structural challenges of poverty, inequality, and environmental vulnerability, with the purpose of reinforcing the long-term resilience of food systems in the face of climate change. This committee will examine the challenges facing governments, specialized agencies, and rural communities in guaranteeing sustained access to sufficient and nutritious food amid mounting climate stress. To this end, delegates will study the evolution of the international framework governing food security and climate adaptation, from the recognition of the right to adequate food under Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, through to the consolidation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, whose advances progressively linked the eradication of hunger to climate adaptation and institutional governance.

At present, the system faces structural obstacles that emerge most forcefully in countries where dependence on rain-fed agriculture coincides with weak institutional capacity, chief among them rainfall variability, degradation of natural resources, and insufficient adaptation financing, factors whose combined effect varies according to each territory's geographic exposure, state capacity, and conflict context. Compounding this are persistent gender gaps, fragile storage and distribution chains, and a disconnect between immediate humanitarian response and the construction of structural resilience. A detailed examination of the cases of Burkina Faso and Bolivia illustrates these tensions, showing how climate change interacts with factors as varied as armed insecurity, desertification, territorial inequality, and the governance of Indigenous resources to produce food vulnerabilities that differ profoundly between the two contexts.

Delegates will be expected to deliberate on concrete strategies for institutional strengthening within UNDP's normative mandate, which includes policy advisory support, technical coordination, and accompaniment in the implementation of national adaptation plans, but excludes the adoption of binding decisions, the imposition of sanctions, and direct intervention in the internal affairs of States.



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE



INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the leading development agency of the United Nations, currently under the administration of Alexander De Croo from Belgium, who assumed the office in December 2025. It focuses on matters related to international sustainable development, operating under the authority of the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). As part of the UN system, UNDP plays a fundamental role in coordinating global development efforts and supporting countries when addressing structural challenges such as poverty, inequality and environmental vulnerability.

One of the Development Programme's main objectives is to assist countries to successfully implement the Paris Agreement and achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals from the UN 2030 Agenda, through initiatives that provide policy guidance, technical assistance and effective capacity building programs; in this way, it aims to strengthen national capacities to achieve long term sustainable development.

Instead of only responding to crises, the UNDP promotes preventive and adaptive strategies that allows countries to better handle external shocks, in sectors such as agriculture and food systems, disruptions directly affect food security and livelihoods. A wide range of projects have been implemented, such as the Sahel Resilience Project in West Africa, which focuses on strengthening disaster risk governance and improving early warning systems by enhancing institutional capacity to respond to climate related events. These initiatives address food security from multiple perspectives, not only a solely climate change driven one, but also by conflict and weak infrastructure. Adapted programs tailored to local conditions promote climate smart agriculture, ecosystem restoration and community based resilience, mainly among vulnerable populations like smallholder farmers.

Building on these efforts, the UNDP advances innovative approaches at the local level . In Burkina Faso, initiatives such as the UNDP Accelerator Lab explore community based responses to interconnected challenges like climate stress, conflict and resource scarcity. For Bolivia on the other hand, climate resilient initiatives are supported with agriculture and sustainable resource management through programs such as the Climate Promise, which mainly focuses on food security, water and rural livelihoods support and protection.

These cases illustrate how climate change interacts with conflict, geographic constraints and domestic conditions to create complex and different vulnerabilities, that's why it is important to highlight food security as a multidimensional issue, requiring comprehensive strategies that combine risk management, innovation and institutional capacity building. Delegates are challenged to design solutions that reflect the realities of each country and how its characteristics shape different contexts that require adaptable measures to be successfully implemented when protecting food supply chains and long term resilience systems in the face of global climate uncertainty.



Taken from: El nuevo diario

COMMITTEE HISTORY

The United Nations Development Programme was officially established on November 22, 1965, through United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2029 (The United Nations, 1965). Its creation resulted from the union of two earlier UN initiatives: the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) founded in 1949, and the Special Fund created in 1958. This consolidation aimed to simplify international development efforts, reduce duplication and improve the efficiency of technical and financial assistance provided to developing countries.

After World War II, the UN began to prioritize economic recovery through development programmes, particularly through the work of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, where early efforts focused on technical assistance and capacity building foundations for future mechanisms with comprehensive and more institutionalized approaches for development cooperation.

Between 1960 to 1980, UNDP's main purpose was to provide technical expertise, fund development projects and support infrastructure growth in recent independent and developing states. Its role evolved beyond financial assistance and to include governance strengthening through the promotion of institutional development and the encouragement of economic diversification. During the global development shift witnessed during the decade of the 1990s, UNDP played a key role with the introduction of the Human Development Report, that redefined development “about expanding the richness of human life, rather than simply the richness of the economy in which human beings live. It is an approach that is focused on people and their opportunities and choices”. (HDRO, 1990)

With the arrival of the new millennium came new strategies. Working as a central actor for the coordination and monitoring the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, UNDP established a global framework that aimed to reduce poverty, improve education and address health challenges. After its conclusion in the year 2015, a new 15-year agenda was proposed with a whole new set of objectives named as the Sustainable Development Goals that broadened the development agenda to include climate action, inequality reduction and sustainable economic growth.



Taken from: United Nations Development Programme

As for 2026, the United Nations Development Programme operates in more than 170 countries, considered as the largest development agency within the UN system. Its evolution reflects a change from short term assistance to long term capacity building and resilience strategies. Contemporary challenges such as climate change, conflict and food insecurity require integrated and sustainable solutions rather than isolated interventions. It is essential to understand the committee's history, as it illustrates how development strategies have evolved from simply providing aid to driving systemic change that incorporates key elements of resilience and sustainability.

COMMITTEE COMPETENCE

The governance structure of UNDP is composed by an Executive Board of 36 member states, distributed regionally:

- 8 seats for Africa
- 7 seats for Asia Pacific
- 5 for Latin America and the Caribbean
- 12 for Western Europe
- 4 for Eastern Europe

This composition reflects an effort to balance representation between developed and developing countries, influencing priorities, funding allocation and program direction.

UNDP's core competence lies in capacity building, policy advisory and international coordination rather than in direct implementation of enforcement. Its work is structured around three main pillars: sustainable development, democratic governance, and climate and crisis resilience. With this framework, the organization supports governments in designing public policies, strengthening institutions and developing long term strategies. UNDP track record shows efficiency in supporting the implementation of poverty reduction strategies in about 132 countries, helping over 160 million people and giving them access to essential services such as energy, housing, and basic infrastructure.

Between 2022 and 2025, UNDP facilitated more than \$867 billion in public and private investment aligned with the UN 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs. It operates in approximately 60 fragile and conflict affected countries, leading initiatives based on climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and sustainable agricultural development in key areas that are directly linked to food system stability. Its main efforts are made to coordinate development projects along the UN system, working closely with governments, international organizations and even the private sector. UNDP programs offer integrated dimensions of development, recognizing that challenges such as food insecurity are interconnected with climate change, conflict, governance and economic instability.



Taken from: United Nations Development Programme

Binding decisions, sanctions or direct interventions cannot be enforced and fall outside UNDP's mandate, its actions depend on voluntary funding and the cooperation of member states. Therefore, within the committee, solutions must remain with the focus on policy design, institutional strengthening and technical assistance to achieve developed resilient systems rather than coercive measures.

ABOUT THE TOPIC



INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

According to The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024, approximately 733 million people experienced hunger in 2023, while nearly 2.33 billion people faced moderate or severe food insecurity. This means that close to one out of every three people worldwide lacked regular access to sufficient and nutritious food. Current projections also indicate that the international community is not on track to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) by 2030. Food insecurity remains most concentrated in low-income and lower-middle-income countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, parts of Asia, and climate-exposed rural regions where livelihoods depend directly on agriculture. (FAO, 2024).

Climate change has become one of the principal drivers behind this trend. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded in its Sixth Assessment Report that rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, irregular precipitation, floods, and land degradation are already reducing agricultural productivity in several regions. These effects are especially visible in agricultural systems that depend on seasonal rainfall. When rains arrive late, fall below expected levels, or become unpredictable, planting periods are disrupted and crops receive less water during key stages of growth, which lowers production. Higher temperatures also dry water sources more quickly and place additional stress on crops, making cultivation more difficult. At the same time, repeated floods can damage farmland, interrupt roads used to transport food, and destroy stored harvests.



Taken from: Carbon brief

Climate variability has also affected water availability, pasture conditions, fisheries, and crop stability. These impacts are strongest in areas where production systems are rain-fed and where households have limited savings, weak infrastructure, or reduced access to markets, as lower production in these contexts is often followed by reduced household income and fewer resources to purchase food or reinvest in the next agricultural cycle. In many cases, this also increases dependence on humanitarian assistance, encourages migration from rural areas, and deepens existing poverty levels.



Taken from: Global crisis response platform

These secondary effects often go beyond agriculture matters and begin to affect the development of a country. The Global Report on Food Crises 2025 estimated that more than 295 million people faced acute food insecurity in 2024. When a state must spend large amounts of money on emergency food assistance, or humanitarian response, it has fewer resources available for long-term projects such as irrigation systems, roads, schools, hospitals, or rural development programs. Governments are forced to focus on immediate survival needs instead of future growth.

Rural-to-urban migration is another frequent consequence of prolonged food insecurity. In communities where household income depends mainly on agriculture, repeated harvest losses or declining production can reduce earnings to the point where remaining in rural areas is no longer economically sustainable. Under these conditions, migration often becomes a strategy to secure employment, diversify family income, or send remittances to relatives who remain in the place of origin. Yet when this movement occurs rapidly or at large scale, urban centres may face growing pressure. The impact is also felt within households that remain in vulnerable areas, where families may sell productive assets or reduce spending on education, healthcare, and nutrition in order to meet immediate needs. While these decisions can provide short-term relief, they also weaken future income opportunities and make recovery after each crisis more difficult.

Recent global crises have reinforced pre-existing weaknesses in national food systems and reduced the ability of many governments to respond effectively to climate-related shocks. The economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic lowered household income, increased poverty levels, and interrupted labour availability across agricultural and transport sectors, particularly in developing economies. Shortly after, the war in Ukraine generated instability in international grain, fertilizer, and energy markets, raising import costs for countries dependent on external supply and increasing domestic food prices.



Taken from: GIS Reports

For many low and middle-income countries, these crises happened while public debt was increasing and government budgets were more limited. This reduced state spending on irrigation systems, rural roads, agricultural support, and food assistance programs. As a result, countries already affected by droughts, floods, or lower agricultural productivity had fewer resources to respond to food insecurity and invest in climate adaptation.



Taken from: IFRC

For this reason, the current debate on food security no longer focuses exclusively on the volume of agricultural production. Higher production does not automatically guarantee stable access to food if harvests cannot be stored efficiently, transported at reasonable cost, or distributed through functioning markets. In the same way, farmers facing drought or price volatility are less able to recover when credit is limited, public institutions are weak, or social protection systems are insufficient. This helps explain why countries with similar production levels can experience very different food security outcomes.

Is not simply to call for greater capacity or broad structural change, since such proposals are insufficient without considering the conditions in which they must be implemented, but how to reinforce food systems operating under pre-existing vulnerabilities and formulate responses tailored to the social, economic, and environmental conditions that already constrain each country's ability to respond to climatic and economic crises.

International legal instruments and multilateral agreements have progressively incorporated the protection of access to adequate food as a recognized policy and human rights concern. Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognizes the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, and affirms the fundamental right to be free from hunger. This legal foundation was later reinforced in 1996 through the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action, which called for coordinated efforts to reduce hunger at the national and international levels. It was further developed in 2004, when the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security were endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security and adopted by the FAO Council, providing States with practical guidance for domestic implementation.

In recent years, food security has been addressed more clearly within international climate and development frameworks. The 2030 Agenda includes the eradication of hunger under Sustainable Development Goal 2 and climate action under Sustainable Development Goal 13. Within SDG 2, target 2.4 specifically calls for sustainable agriculture and production systems capable of adapting to climate-related pressures. In the same direction, the Paris Agreement encouraged States to integrate adaptation into national planning processes. This approach has also been reflected in successive United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the right to food, agricultural development, food security, and nutrition, which indicate an increasing recognition that hunger and climate vulnerability cannot be managed through separate policy responses.

Despite this growing international recognition, translating these commitments into effective national responses remains uneven, particularly in regions where structural vulnerabilities were already present before climate pressures intensified. Burkina Faso and Bolivia offer a useful comparison for examining how food insecurity develops under climate stress in two highly relevant regions of the world: Africa and South America. In both countries, agriculture remains central to economic and social life, since a large share of the population depends on it for income and food security. This means that when rainfall becomes irregular, soils lose productivity, or production costs rise, the effects are quickly felt in household welfare and local markets. These pressures become more severe where territorial inequality limits access to the resources needed to remain productive, as many rural communities continue to face weaker infrastructure, lower access to finance, and less institutional support than more connected areas. Their inclusion in this agenda allows the committee to assess how shared conditions of vulnerability require responses adapted to different regional realities.



Taken from: The guardian

What places this issue within the mandate of UNDP is that food insecurity is often determined by the strength of the public systems expected to respond to it. This is where UNDP becomes particularly relevant. Its role is centred on improving the public systems through which adaptation measures are planned, resources are distributed, and vulnerable territories are incorporated into national development strategies. Where governance is weak or investment remains uneven, climatic stress tends to produce deeper economic and social effects. For countries such as Burkina Faso and Bolivia, reinforcing institutional capacity and policy coordination can be as decisive as immediate food assistance itself. This also requires moving beyond the simple transfer of development models designed elsewhere, and instead advancing solutions grounded in the social realities, priorities, and territorial conditions of the communities directly affected.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The issue of strengthening food security systems in Burkina Faso and Bolivia sits at the intersection of sustainable development, human rights, and climate governance. In the 2030 Agenda, SDG 2 commits States to ending hunger, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture, while SDG 13 places climate action at the center of the response. In particular, target 2.4 calls for resilient agricultural practices and sustainable food production systems, and target 2.a stresses the need for greater investment and international cooperation to strengthen agricultural productive capacity in developing countries (United Nations, 2015). Taken together, these goals reflect a shift from treating hunger as a purely humanitarian issue to understanding it as a structural development problem linked to climate resilience.

The doctrinal basis for this discussion predates the SDGs. Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognizes the right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, as well as the fundamental right to be free from hunger (United Nations, 1966/1976; OHCHR, n.d.). The Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action reinforced this commitment by placing the eradication of hunger within a framework of coordinated international action (World Food Summit, 1996). In the same line, the FAO Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food provide soft-law guidance for States seeking to translate the right to food into domestic policy and institutional practice (FAO, 2004).

This rights-based framework has become even more relevant in the context of climate change. OHCHR states that climate change negatively affects the realization of the right to food and does so disproportionately for rural populations, peasants, small-scale farmers and fishers, pastoralists, Indigenous people, low-income households, women and girls, and children in the global South (OHCHR, 2024). The High Commissioner's 2024 report further identifies measures aimed at minimizing the adverse impact of climate change on the full realization of the right to food and links this concern to human-rights-based food-system transformation (OHCHR, 2024). In other words, climate policy and food security can no longer be treated as separate tracks.



Taken from: IPES-food

Within the General Assembly, the topic has been addressed through repeated resolutions on the right to food and on agriculture development, food security, and nutrition. Resolution 76/166 reaffirmed the right-to-food framework, and resolution 79/171 continued that line in 2024 (United Nations General Assembly, 2022, 2024a). On the development side, resolution 78/168 and resolution 79/227 show a gradual consolidation of the Assembly's position, moving toward a clearer connection between food systems, resilience, and climate vulnerability (United Nations General Assembly, 2023, 2024b). This progression matters because it shows that food security is increasingly understood not only as a matter of production, but also of adaptation, governance, and structural risk.



Taken from: Food and agricultural organization of the United Nations

From a political perspective, food security governance rests on a balance between national responsibility and international cooperation. States remain primarily responsible for ensuring food security, but the UN framework also recognizes that developing countries need sustained support where structural vulnerabilities are already present (United Nations General Assembly, 2023). FAO's right-to-food guidelines further emphasize inclusive policymaking, including participation by local authorities, Indigenous communities, and smallholder producers, so that policy reflects territorial realities rather than abstract models (FAO, 2004). This is especially relevant in climate-affected settings, where weak institutions, territorial inequality, and limited state capacity can quickly turn environmental stress into a food crisis.

Economically, food insecurity is closely tied to unequal access to land, markets, infrastructure, and public investment. Climate change intensifies those pressures by disrupting supply chains, reducing yields, and increasing price volatility, especially in rain-fed agricultural systems (FAO, 2008). WFP's country information on Burkina Faso notes that agriculture employs 80 percent of the population and that much of the land is rain-fed and highly climate-sensitive; it also highlights droughts, heatwaves, desertification, and water scarcity as serious threats to productivity (WFP, 2024). In Bolivia, WFP describes the country as the Latin American country most affected by extreme weather and reports an average of 160 extreme weather events each year, with direct consequences for rural poverty and food insecurity (WFP, 2023). These examples are useful here mainly as indicators of the wider pattern, not as case-study discussion.

Socially, the burden of food insecurity is rarely distributed evenly. Women, children, rural communities, and small-scale producers are often the first to feel the effects of price shocks, climatic stress, and reduced access to services, credit, and productive resources (OHCHR, 2024). The General Assembly has repeatedly linked food security to gender equality, social protection, and inclusive development, reflecting the understanding that resilience depends not only on output, but also on equity and access (United Nations General Assembly, 2022). The cultural dimension also matters: local diets, Indigenous agricultural knowledge, and community-based production systems can strengthen resilience, while the erosion of these practices through environmental degradation or economic pressure can weaken it.

Legally, the right to food provides the clearest normative framework for the topic. The ICESCR requires States to respect, protect, and fulfill the right to adequate food without discrimination, and the right has since been elaborated through general comment and soft-law guidance (OHCHR, n.d.; FAO, 2004). The newer climate-related human rights materials from OHCHR reinforce that food security obligations now must be read alongside environmental sustainability and climate adaptation (OHCHR, 2024). That intersection is what makes the subject particularly relevant for Burkina Faso and Bolivia: both countries illustrate how climate stress, inequality, and institutional limits can converge to destabilize food systems.

Taken together, these political, economic, social, cultural, and legal dimensions show that food security under climate change is not a single-sector issue. It is a governance problem, a development problem, and a human rights problem at the same time. That is why the most effective responses are those that are integrated, context-sensitive, and multisectoral, rather than one-size-fits-all solutions (United Nations, 2015).

CURRENT CONTEXT

By 2024, it was reported that approximately 2.3 billion people were food insecure (28% of the global population), with around 623 million people experiencing hunger worldwide, accounting for 8.2% of the global population. By 2030, with the completion of the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda, it is reported that 512 million people will still be suffering from hunger, with about 60% of them in Africa. Over 96 million people were directly pushed into food crises by climate extremes in 2024 alone, while the broader climate-driven erosion of food system resilience has contributed to the total of 2.3 billion people struggling with food insecurity globally. The most vulnerable population gathers smallholder farmers, women, children, and communities in Africa and Asia, which bear a disproportionate share of this burden.



Taken from: The Nations health

Currently, the world is facing a severe global food crisis, driven by a combination of overlapping emergencies, such as the ongoing war in Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic after-effects, generating disruption in global supply chains, particularly in top food exporting nations in the world, delaying post-pandemic economic recovery and enlarging uneven development breaches. Climate-related disasters from floods in Pakistan to droughts and heat waves in the Horn of Africa and China have further exacerbated the situation. Plus, the increase of prices for energy related resources have triggered unbridled inflation in food and fertilizer costs. Debt crises have also grown leaving the most vulnerable countries with little capacity to cope with these pressures.

It is important to distinguish between the different climate-related risks to which the population is exposed, these being: (i) geophysical, (ii) biological, (iii) climate and weather-related, and (iv) hydrological. Currently, 19 million people living in rural areas experience climate-related stress such as drought, flooding, or extreme weather events. Particularly with El Niño-Southern Oscillation climate phenomenon, causing rainfall anomalies, where in regions such as Africa, South East Asia and North America causes drier conditions whereas in regions such as South America its the opposite with wetter climate conditions.

With food insecurity on the rise in numerous countries, the task of transforming food systems has never been more urgent. The current food systems are deeply broken, with far reaching consequences for the environment, public health, and socioeconomic well being. Poor governance, the concentration of power and policies that fail to adequately represent marginalized communities have made these systems increasingly fragile. Fundamental change is needed to address the accelerating loss of ecosystems, growing inequality and poverty and persistently high levels of hunger and famine.

UNDP Food Systems aims to build food systems that are sustainable, inclusive, equitable, healthy and resilient. Given the complexity of the current challenges, it is essential to recognize the deep connection between food and development. A systemic perspective is key to understanding how interrelated the issues are to collectively undermine food security, including: (i) climate change, (ii) poverty, (iii) inequality, (iv) gender disparities, (v) unsustainable energy use, (vi) conflict, (vii) fragility and weak governance. UNDP applies integrated multisectoral, systemic approaches to complex development challenges especially comprehending the transformation

of food systems. By addressing the interconnection between dimensions of the systems, coordination for action to strengthen resilience can significantly impact the most affected communities, promoting extensive local governance for inclusive growth, gender equality, climate, energy, health and crisis response.

Leveraging its unique position as a neutral facilitator, UNDP includes diverse stakeholders in a collaborative dialogue, a fundamental aspect for driving change in food systems. With over a decade of experience, UNDP has promoted its innovative Effective Collaborative Action methodology for food systems transformation. With presence in more than 100 countries, UNDP brings together a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, leading development organizations, the private sector, indigenous communities, and farmers organizations around a shared vision of food systems that are socially and environmentally sustainable.

Other initiatives such as Food Systems, Lands Use and Restorations (FOLUR) which is a UNDP \$345 million initiative funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and led by the World Bank, aimed at reshaping the global food system by fostering sustainable, integrated landscapes and more efficient commodity supply chains. Through its leadership of the Good Growth Partnership (GGP), UNDP supports this Impact Programme, which operates a Global Platform providing services to 27 country-level projects focused on the production landscapes of eight key commodities: beef, cocoa, corn, coffee, palm oil, rice, soy, and wheat. However, yet to reach countries such as Bolivia and Burkina Faso.



Taken from: United Nations Development Programme

The SCALA programme (Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans) was designed to address the growing need for stronger action in response to the effects of climate change on agriculture and land use. The programme works with more than twenty countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, helping them strengthen their adaptive capacity and lower greenhouse gas emissions in alignment with their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), while also advancing progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UNDP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) jointly lead this €26 million initiative, which runs from 2021 to 2028 and is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN) through its International Climate Initiative (IKI).

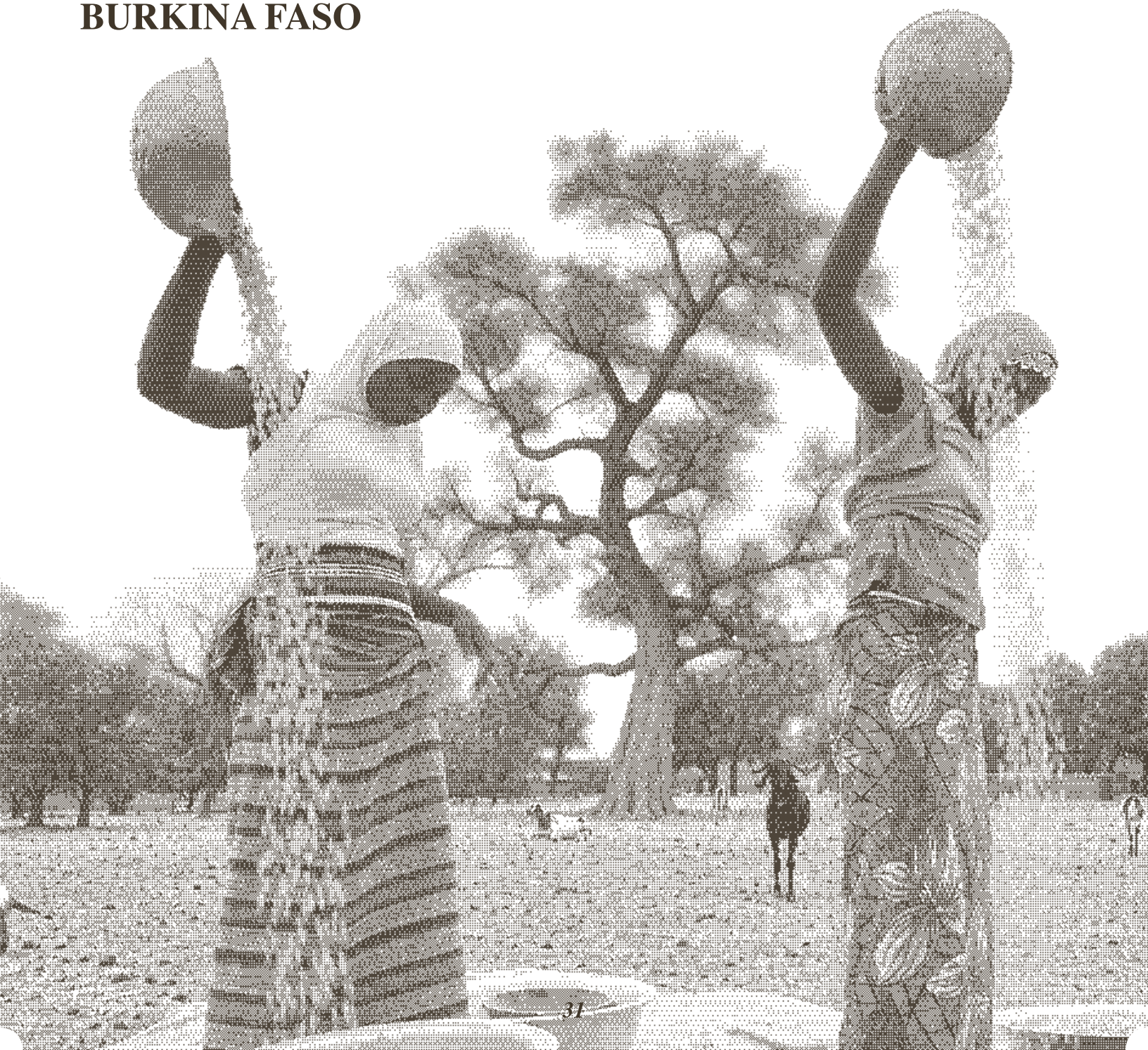


Taken from: United Nations Development Programme

Despite numerous programs and initiatives aimed at strengthening more sustainable food systems, it is important to take into account the different conditions each region faces; therefore, a one-size-fits-all approach does not guarantee effective crisis management. We invite you to conduct an in-depth study and research on each of the territories conditions and characteristics where different dimensions need to be taken into account in order to call for action for more sustainable food supply systems. Different socioeconomic, cultural, political, geographical and climate aspects make the difference on how each region faces climate change distress.

CASE OF STUDY A

BURKINA FASO

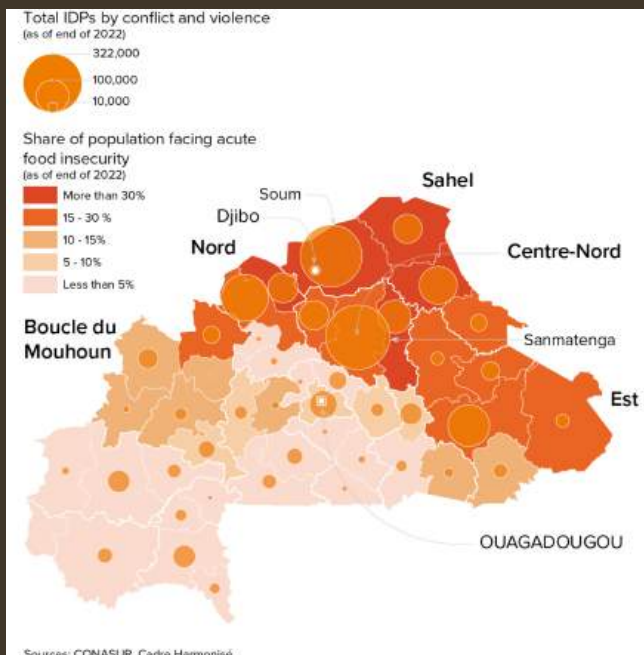


HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Burkina Faso is a landlocked country in West Africa, located within the Sahel region and bordered by Mali, Niger, Benin, Togo, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. Its position on the edge of the Sahara gives it a dry tropical climate that alternates between a short rainy season and a long dry season, divided into three climatic zones: a Sahelian zone in the north receiving less than 600mm of average annual rainfall, a north-Sudanian zone in the centre receiving between 600 and 900mm, and a south-Sudanian zone in the south receiving more than 900mm. This dependence, unevenly distributed rainy season places Burkina Faso among the countries most exposed to climate variability in the Sahel, where projections point to rainfall reductions of up to 10 percent by 2050, alongside rising drought risk and evaporation (UNDP Climate Change Adaptation)



Taken from: USGS



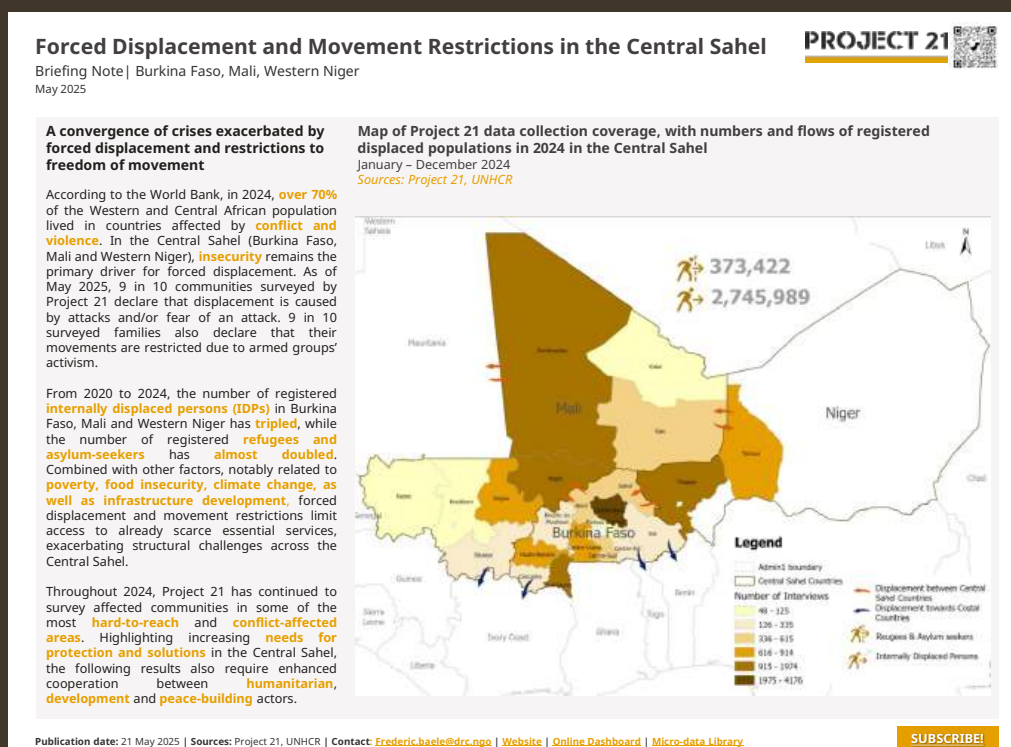
Taken from: IDMC

Agriculture is central to the Burkinabè economy and to household survival, contributing roughly a quarter to a third of GDP depending on the year and methodology used, and sustaining the large majority of the working population, with estimates across sources ranging from about two-thirds to more than four-fifths of all workers (WFP, 2024; CARE Climate Change). Farming remains overwhelmingly rain-fed and extensive, practiced mostly by smallholder families on plots of between 1.5 and 12 hectares, with only around 13 percent of arable land currently irrigated because of high infrastructure costs and limited water availability (Global Yield Gap Atlas). Staple cereals such as millet, sorghum and maize coexist with cash crops, chiefly cotton, cowpea and groundnuts, but irregular rainfall, poor soil fertility and land degradation continue to constrain productivity (Global Yield Gap Atlas). Land degradation is particularly severe: close to half of the country's arable land is

now considered degraded, and an additional 105,000 to 250,000 hectares are lost every year to erosion and desertification, threatening both food production and rural livelihoods (IISD, 2024).

Burkina Faso is also one of the poorest and most ethnically diverse countries in the region. Its population, estimated at around 22 to 23 million people, is composed of more than 60 ethnic groups; the Mossi form the largest group at roughly half the population, while the Fulani, Gurma, Bobo, Gurunsi, Senufo and dozens of smaller groups make up the rest. This diversity includes both settled farming populations and semi-nomadic pastoralist communities such as the Fulani, whose mobile herding livelihoods have long interacted with, and at times competed against, sedentary agriculture further south. Historically, close to 40 percent of the population lived below the national poverty line, and while national projections point to a gradual decline in poverty over the coming years, disparities between rural and urban areas, between men and women, and among specific communities remain wide: Burkina Faso's Gender Inequality Index score of 0.577 ranked it 146th out of 170 countries in 2023, reflecting persistent gaps in reproductive health, education and women's economic participation, and women continue to face significant barriers to land ownership, inheritance and access to credit (Migrants & Refugees Section, 2021; Borgen Project, 2024).

Since around 2015, Burkina Faso has also become the epicentre of the jihadist insurgency affecting the wider Central Sahel, led principally by groups linked to al-Qaida and to the Islamic State. Two military coups in 2022 brought Captain Ibrahim Traoré to power, and the security crisis has deepened since: armed groups are estimated by independent observers to operate with relative freedom across much of the national territory, a figure the government disputes, while civilian casualties attributed to both non-state armed groups and government-aligned forces have risen sharply (Atlantic Council, 2026). Fulani communities in particular have been targeted by military and allied auxiliary forces on suspicion of supporting armed groups, a dynamic that has deepened ethnic tension on top of the humanitarian emergency (HRW, 2026). Layered onto pre-existing climate and structural vulnerabilities, this conflict has produced one of the largest displacement crises in the region.



Taken from: Relief web

CURRENT SITUATION

Burkina Faso's food security outlook for 2025 and 2026: a protracted conflict and displacement crisis, continued structural climate vulnerability and land degradation, and a marked political shift toward state-led "food sovereignty" under the transitional military government.

The security and displacement crisis remains the dominant driver of acute food insecurity. The FAO-WFP Hunger Hotspots report covering November 2025 to May 2026 lists Burkina Faso among the four hotspots of highest concern outside the six countries facing imminent risk of catastrophic hunger, with conflict identified as the primary driver across the large majority of the hotspots analysed. Under WFP's Country Strategic Plan, food insecurity was estimated to affect 19 percent of Burkinabè households as of its November 2025 revision, with structural poverty, insufficient agricultural production, environmental degradation, climate-related shocks, gender inequality and insecurity all cited as underlying drivers. During the 2024 lean season alone, an estimated 2.7 million people, 12 percent of the population, required immediate food assistance (WFP, 2024). Displacement figures illustrate the scale of the crisis: more than 2.1 million people were recorded as internally displaced by the end of April 2026, among the largest displacement crises in the region, straining host communities and intensifying competition over land and water (ACAPS, 2026). The country also hosts more than 34,000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from Mali. Humanitarian access has narrowed further after the transitional authorities dissolved 118 NGOs and suspended more than 350 others in April 2026 over alleged administrative non-compliance, part of a broader tightening of civic space that has particularly affected human-rights and community-support organisations.

Climate vulnerability continues to compound these pressures. Rainfall variability, recurrent drought and flash flooding remain constant threats to a farming system that is almost entirely rain-fed, and land de-

gradation is advancing quickly enough that current restoration efforts cover only a fraction of the roughly 46 percent of arable land already degraded (IISD, 2024). In October 2022, above-average rainfall triggered flooding across 19 West and Central African countries, including Burkina Faso, destroying crops and displacing communities, a preview of the kind of shocks the country is expected to face more frequently. In response, the government and international partners have promoted nature-based land restoration with the aim of regenerating a significant share of the country's degraded land and benefiting more than 26,000 households directly and over 600,000 people indirectly, with particular attention to women's participation (IISD, 2024)



Taken from: WFP

Since 2023, the authorities have pursued what they describe as an "Agricultural Offensive," including a Presidential Initiative for Agricultural Production and an Offensive Agro-Pastoral and Fisheries Development Plan, distributing tractors and inputs to farmers, redeploying agricultural engineers to rural areas, and restricting food exports outside the Alliance of Sahel States in an effort to stabilise domestic prices. On 31 December 2025, President Traoré declared that Burkina Faso had achieved food self-sufficiency, and in February 2026 the government nationalised five major agro-industrial complexes; the Alliance of Sahel States has also launched a regional seed alliance, AP-SA-Sahel, intended to reduce dependence on imported seed varieties.



Taken from: Peoples dispatch

At the regional level, Burkina Faso's withdrawal from ECOWAS alongside Mali and Niger, formalised in January 2025, and its membership in the Alliance of Sahel States formed in 2023, have reoriented its cooperation frameworks away from established West African bodies and toward a smaller confederation prioritising "resource sovereignty," including over the country's agricultural base (U.S. Department of State, 2026). This reorientation, combined with reduced bilateral aid from some traditional donors, has direct implications for how future food security programming will need to be negotiated and delivered in the country.

Financing for agricultural resilience continues nonetheless through multilateral channels. IFAD signed a €107 million agreement in 2023 for the Programme to Strengthen Smallholder Resilience to Climate Change and other shocks, targeting 109,000 rural people over eight years with strong participation quotas for women and young people (IFAD, 2023). More recently, IFAD and the FAO Investment Centre developed a further USD 116 million, eight-year programme to strengthen production systems and market access for smallholder farmers, and the World Bank approved a USD 215.9 million Agricultural Transformation Project in March 2026 (FAO, 2025; World Bank, 2026). These investments sit alongside Burkina Faso's National Adaptation Plan (2015-2025) and its 2021 Nationally Determined Contribution, which sets a quantifiable emissions-reduction target of 29.42 percent by 2030, with a further 30.76 percent achievable through adaptation actions in agriculture, settlements and transport

RELEVANT ACTORS

Food security governance is coordinated through the Conseil National de Sécurité Alimentaire (CNSA), which relies on specialised structures to carry out its mandate, including the Société Nationale de Gestion du Stock de Sécurité Alimentaire (SONAGESS), created in 1994 to manage a national cereal reserve of millet, maize and sorghum and to stabilise prices through subsidised sales, especially in communes at risk of food insecurity or hosting large numbers of displaced people, and the Conseil National de Secours d'Urgence et de Réhabilitation (CONASUR), responsible for emergency relief and for coordinating assistance to internally displaced people alongside SONAGESS. The Ministry of Economy, Finance and Foresight negotiates external financing agreements with international partners.

WFP has operated in Burkina Faso since 1967 and currently implements its 2019-2026 Country Strategic Plan,

combining emergency food and nutrition assistance with resilience programmes that have rehabilitated over 50,000 hectares of degraded land and supported more than 550,000 people across over 300 villages since 2018, while also running the UN Humanitarian Air Service to reach hard-to-access areas. FAO co-leads the Cadre Harmonisé food security analysis and the Hunger Hotspots early warning system together with WFP, and works with IFAD's Investment Centre to design agricultural investment programmes.

UNDP contributes through its Burkina Faso Accelerator Lab, which works across the country office's governance, resilience, and environment/energy units to test community-based responses to the interlinked pressures of climate stress, conflict and resource scarcity, and through the SCALA programme, co-led with FAO, which supports Burkina Faso together with more than a dozen other countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America in translating National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions into concrete climate action for agriculture and land use (UNDP). UNDP has also piloted an index-based weather insurance scheme for 20,000 smallholder households as a tool for managing climate risk (UNDP Climate Change Adaptation). IFAD and the World Bank are the principal development financiers of the sector, while the International Organization for Migration (IOM) supports the Ministry of National Solidarity and Humanitarian Action and CONASUR on displacement governance and durable solutions for internally displaced people (IOM, 2026).



Burkina Faso Accelerator Lab Taken from: United Nations Development Programme

Farmer and peasant organisations form the backbone of Burkina Faso's agricultural civil society. The Confédération Paysanne du Faso (CPF), founded in 2002, brings together around fifteen national federations and unions representing close to a million producers, and has shaped major policy tools such as the National Strategy for Agroecology, the Central Supply Unit for Agricultural Inputs and Equipment, and the Agricultural Development Fund (CPF). Its largest member federation, the Fédération des Professionnels Agricoles du Burkina (FE-PAB), founded in 1997, groups dozens of provincial unions representing hundreds of thousands of producers and has held the CPF presidency since 2008. Both are affiliated with the regional Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs Agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA), headquartered in Ouagadougou, and with newer agroecology-focused platforms such as the Alliance pour l'Agroécologie en Afrique de l'Ouest.

UNDP

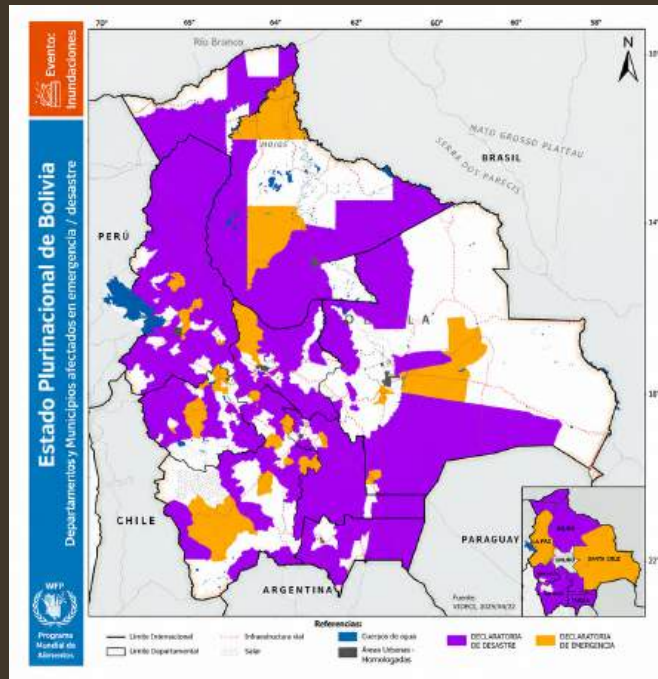
CASE OF STUDY B

BOLIVIA



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Plurinational State of Bolivia is considered one of the countries that faces most vulnerable climate variabilities across the South American region. According to the Global Climate Risk Index, it ranks among the ten countries most affected by extreme weather events (WFP, 2023). Each year, Bolivia combats about 160 extreme climate challenges on average, including floods, droughts and wildfires. These events worsen rural poverty, limit access to safe drinking water, increase the spread of vector-borne diseases and reduce the amount of available land for agriculture. In the last decade, the country has declared several national disasters including major floods in 2014, the severe drought in 2016 and more recent flooding and wildfires crises since 2019 (Pinto Vallejos, 2025).



Plurinational State of Bolivia: Departments and municipalities declared in a state of emergency and disaster. Event: Floods. VIDECT, 2025.

Agriculture plays a major role in Bolivia's economy and food security. The sector contributes around 11% to 15% of the country's GDP and is largely supported by farming, representing more than 80% of national agriculture production (FAO, n.d.). Around one third of the population lives in rural areas, decreasing this number gradually by climate pressures leading to migration into urban centers (UNDP Climate Promise, 2024).

Agricultural production is exposed to different liabilities due to the dependence of rainfall to cause irrigation for the land. Moreover, only about one third of the agricultural production uses irrigation systems, mostly in the valleys and the Altiplano region (Adaptation Fund, 2023).

By its high cultural and ethnic diversity, the representation of indigenous people is nearly half of the national population having 36 indigenous nations officially recognized by the Constitution (FAO, 2024). Indigenous communities play an essential role in protecting ecosystems and sustaining food systems. At the same time, they are among the most affected groups by changing climate conditions and risks often having limited access to social protection. Although Bolivia has legally recognized land rights and established the right to food in its

constitution, many indigenous communities still face barriers in accessing credit, infrastructure and markets in comparison to urban areas. (WFP, 2022).

During the last two decades, reducing progress has been made, declining around 19% to 11%, increasing life expectancy from 68 to 74 years. Still, Bolivia remains the second-poorest country in South America (after Venezuela) with 36.3% of its population living in moderate poverty and 11% in extreme poverty, predominantly in rural areas than in cities. (WFP, 2023). Additionally, its lack of self-sufficient resources in essential foods such as wheat makes it dependent on imports and increases vulnerability to changes in global food and fuel prices.

Gender inequality also plays a significant role in food insecurity. Women face a 26% gap in labor market participation compared to men, mostly due to the fact of the unequal distribution of unpaid domestic labours and care work, resulting in 4 out of 10 women in Bolivia living in poverty with Indigenous women being among the most affected groups. (WFP, 2023)

CURRENT SITUATION

Bolivia's food security situation in 2025 and 2026 needs to be understood through 3 major and interconnected challenges:

- Long term climate vulnerability
- Wildfires and deforestation crises growth
- Economic and political crisis

One of the main concerns is climate exposure, especially after the 2024-2025 wildfire crisis in lowland departments of Santa Cruz and Beni which faced wildfire increases mainly driven by agricultural land clearing, prolonged drought and the expansion of large scale agribusiness. According to Global Forest Watch, Bolivia lost around 979,000 hectares of tree cover due to fires in 2024, representing nearly half of all fire related forest loss recorded between 2001 and 2023. The Bolivian ministry of Environment and Water estimated that fires between September and November 2024 burned around 6.4 million hectares, while organizations such as Fundación Tierra reported even higher figures during the full fire season (Mongabay, 2025). By September 2025, official reports kept showing severe wildfire conditions, leading the government to declare a national emergency with Santa Cruz and Beni identified as the most affected departments. (ACAPS, 2025)



Taken from: France24

These wildfires are not caused only by climate conditions, they are also strongly connected to land use policies. Since the mid-2000s, legal regulations have allowed agricultural land clearing of up to 20 hectares per property through controlled burning. Weak enforcement has contributed to uncontrolled fires, especially in Chiquitano

Dry Forest. The effects go far beyond environmental damage, affecting water and sanitation systems, increased respiratory illnesses, damaged crops and livestock and raising displacement risks for rural and Indigenous communities, especially those with limited resources to recover from repeated disasters.

At the same time, Bolivia is facing a major economic and political crisis in 2025. The country has experienced what many would describe as its worst economic crisis in four decades, driven by falling domestic natural gas production, shortage of US dollar reserves and the weakening of long standing fuel subsidies (Euronews, 2026). Fuel shortages have had a direct impact on agriculture, transportation and food distribution, while also increasing the cost of imported staple goods. In May 2026, large protests and road blockades organized by mining, transport, and agricultural unions severely disrupted daily life in La Paz, El Alto and Cochabamba. Authorities described these cities as being under effective isolation, as the movement of food, medicine and causing sharp increases in basic food prices, affecting dairy producers in Cochabamba, for example, warned by the negative effect of prolonged blockades on their economic stability. This situation shows how political instability and infrastructure disruptions can quickly worsen existing climate related vulnerabilities and create serious food access problems.



Taken from: Al Jazeera

Even before these recent crises, Bolivia already faced major structural food security challenges, where one out of three citizens from the rural area could not afford basic food market, exposing 11% of the population to severe food insecurity and another 13% experiencing extreme food insecurity, particularly in the departments of La Paz, Potosí, Cochabamba and Chuquisaca (WFP, 2022). Bolivia also continues to face a double burden of malnutrition with chronic undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies remaining as serious concerns among women of reproductive age. On the other side, overweight and obesity are increasing, partly because many households struggle to access nutritious and diverse diets (WFP, 2023). Only about 7% of the food consumed in La Paz is produced locally, making the city highly dependent on food transported from rural regions that are increasingly affected by droughts and floods (UNDP Climate Promise, 2024).



Taken from: VOA

The current food security panorama is shaped less by major harvest failures and more by long term weaknesses in the systems that determine whether food produced in rural areas can reach households in sufficient quantities and at affordable prices. In other words, the main challenge is not always food production itself, but access, distribution and affordability. Rural roads, especially secondary and tertiary routes are essential for moving products from small farms to local and regional markets, yet in many areas they remain insufficient in both coverage and quality, especially in the Highlands and Valleys, where most family farmers are located (World Bank, 2021). Poor storage infrastructure and limited cold chain logistics also lead to significant post harvest losses, reducing

the effective food supply. As a result, disruptions such as floods, fuel shortages or road blockades can quickly cause food shortages and price increases in urban areas.

Bolivia's agricultural production also operates below its full potential, especially in the smallholder sect, where

according to the World Bank, four main factors can improve productivity in family farming: Stronger collective organization, better access to credit, improved mobile connectivity and expanded irrigation systems. However, their impact varies depending on the region, like in the Highlands, where farms are smaller and market connections are weaker, collective organization and better access to information tend to be more important than credit alone. In the Lowlands, where stronger market connections already exists, access to financing and producer associations can generate greater benefits, addressing these challenges with programmes such as Rural Partnerships Program (Programa de Alianzas Rurales, PAR) in force since 2006 to connect smallholder farmers with buyers and institutions, improving market access and supply chain integration supported by the World Bank and FAO, creating around 2,601 productive alliances by its second phase and benefiting thousand of farming households across Bolivia (Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, n.d.)

Another important development is the launch of the Joint Programme “Strengthening Sustainable Food Systems in the Bolivian Amazon to Live Well in Harmony with Mother Earth” (AMAS-1) in March 2025. This program is being implemented by Bolivia’s Ministry of Rural Development and Lands in partnership with the United Nations, targeting directly 5,836 people across 14 municipalities in the Bolivian Amazon, while around 280,000 people are expected to benefit indirectly through better access to healthy food, stronger production systems and improved market connections (Joint SDG Fund, 2025). The program focuses on traditional and agroecological production systems rooted in Indigenous knowledge. More importantly, it reflects a broader shift in Bolivia’s food policy toward approaches that combine environmental sustainability, cultural identity and long term resilience rather than focusing only on increasing production.



Obtenido de: Joint SDG fund

Financing also remains a major challenge for Bolivia’s food system, especially in remote rural and Indigenous communities where access to capital is limited. The Joint SDG Fund has supported blended finance initiatives in Bolivia, including a US\$2.5 million guarantee fund designed to generate more than US\$10 million in investment for small agricultural business with special attention to women, rural livestock producers and crop farmers (Joint SDG Fund, 2025). In addition, International Fund for Agricultural Development launched the ACCESOS Rural Project in 2022 with a total investment of US\$26.5 million to support smallholder farmers in increasing staple food production and improving resilience to climate related challenges. The project aims to support more than 19,000 families (IFAD, 2022). These initiatives show growing recognition that improving food security requires not only technical solutions, but also financial tools that reach communities often excluded from formal banking systems.

Bolivia has also strengthened its legal and policy framework for food systems in recent years, although implementation remains very uneven. The 2021 UN Food Systems Summit encouraged a national dialogue that helped define priority areas such as food sovereignty, agroecological transition, Indigenous food systems and stronger institutional coordination. (Bolivia Food Systems Summit, 2021). Bolivia’s third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), submitted in September 2025, also places food and energy sovereignty at the center of its climate adaptation strategy, emphasizing on the importance of building a climate resilient agricultural sector as part of long term national development (UNDP Climate Promise, 2026). The main challenge remaining is implementation, where effective coordination between the Ministry of Rural Development and Lands, the Ministry of Environment and Water, regional governments and Indigenous authorities remains complex, with monitoring systems for food security outcomes being very limited, making difficult a full measurement on progress at local level.

RELEVANT ACTORS

Bolivia's food system depends on a wide network of actors, including government institutions, international organizations and peasant groups, private sector actors and research institutions, where each of these groups plays a different but important role in shaping food security, agricultural development and long term resilience.

At the national level, government institutions remain central to food system governance. The Ministry of Rural Development and Land (Ministerio de Desarrollo Rural y Tierras) is the main institution responsible for agricultural policy, support for smallholder farmers and rural development programs in Bolivia. It also oversees key initiatives such as the Rural Partnerships Program (PAR/EMPODERAR) and serves as the main government partner for several UN Food System programs. The Ministry of Development Planning plays an important role in coordinating social protection programs, especially through the Integrated Registry Platform of Social Programmes, which helps connect vulnerable households with food assistance and other support mechanisms (FAO, 2024).

Other public institutions also contribute to food system stability. The State Company to Support Food Production (EMAPA) helps stabilize food prices by purchasing and distributing basic food products, making it one of the government's main tools for responding to market volatility. Meanwhile, the National Council on Food and Nutrition (CONAN) is responsible for coordinating nutrition policies across different sectors and ministries, supporting a more integrated approach to food security. Bolivia's climate policies are also directly linked to food systems through the Plurinational Authority of Mother Earth, which oversees the implementation of climate laws focused on environmental sustainability and adaptation in agriculture.

International organizations, especially the United Nations system, also play a major role in supporting Bolivia's food system. The World Food Programme has worked in Bolivia since 1963 and currently operates under its 2023–2027 Country Strategic Plan. Its work focuses on emergency response, nutrition interventions, support for smallholder farmers, and strengthening institutional capacity at national and local levels (WFP, 2023). The Food and Agriculture Organization supports projects related to climate resilience, sustainable family farming, agroecology, and social protection for Indigenous communities. These efforts are carried out in collaboration with ministries, local governments, and Indigenous organizations (FAO, n.d.-b; FAO, 2024).

The United Nations Development Programme also contributes through climate adaptation initiatives, including support for Bolivia's Nationally Determined Contribution process and solar-powered irrigation systems for rural farmers. At the same time, the International Fund for Agricultural Development supports vulnerable farming families through the ACCESOS Rural Project, which aims to improve food production and strengthen resilience in rural areas (UNDP Climate Promise, 2026). Other UN institutions also contribute from specific perspectives. For example, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights focuses on the right to food as part of Bolivia's human rights commitments, especially in the context of climate change. In addition, the Joint SDG Fund provides financing for coordinated programs such as AMAS-1, which require collaboration between multiple UN agencies.

Indigenous and peasant organizations are equally important, as they represent the communities most directly involved in food production. In many ways, they are the foundation of Bolivia's smallholder agricultural system. The Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Bolivia (CIDOB) and the National Council of Ayllus

and Marcas Qullasuyu (CONAMAQ) are among the most important Indigenous organizations in the country, representing lowland and highland communities respectively. Both play active roles in food sovereignty discussions and contribute traditional knowledge to policy processes.

Peasant farming organizations also have strong influence. The Confederation of Rural Labour of Bolivia (CSUTCB) has historically played a key role in agricultural policy negotiations. Other organizations, such as CIOEC and CIPCA, provide technical support, research, and organizational strengthening for rural producer groups recognized under Bolivian law (CESR, 2025). More recently, organizations like the Federation of Acai and Amazonian Fruits of Pando (FEDAFAP) have become important actors in programs such as AMAS-1 by connecting Indigenous agroforestry systems with sustainable market opportunities (Joint SDG Fund, 2025). These organizations are critical because they not only represent communities in policy discussions, but also help build local capacity and strengthen food systems at the community level.

The private sector and subnational governments also play an increasingly important role. According to the World Bank, producer associations and public-private alliances are essential for improving supply chain integration, especially in regions where small farmers have limited market access or bargaining power (World Bank, 2021). Departmental and municipal governments are becoming more important as Bolivia continues its decentralization process, which gives local governments greater responsibilities in agricultural extension, rural development, and disaster risk management (FAO, 2024). Financial institutions, including microfinance organizations and community banks, are also becoming key actors as new blended finance models expand access to credit for rural producers (Joint SDG Fund, 2025).

Finally, research institutions and civil society organizations provide the knowledge needed to improve long-term decision-making. Bolivian universities, along with organizations such as CIPCA and the Institute for Rural Development in South America (IPDRS), contribute valuable research and policy analysis related to food systems, agriculture, and rural development (FAO, n.d.). Their work is especially important in areas such as land rights, agroecology, and territorial development. These institutions help ensure that food system policies are supported by evidence and remain connected to the realities faced by rural communities.



Taken from: UN food system coordination hub

QARVLAS

- How can the committee design a food security strategy that remains strictly within UNDP's development mandate, while still engaging with the legal and operational dimensions of food security that are traditionally addressed by FAO, WFP, IFAD, UNEP, OHCHR, and the UNFCCC framework?
- What legal and policy mechanisms can ensure that food security measures are not limited to short-term humanitarian relief, but instead contribute to long-term institutional resilience, adaptive governance, and structural transformation of food systems? What standards should guide the allocation of climate finance and development assistance for food security, particularly in relation to transparency, accountability, additionality, accessibility, and the differentiated needs of least developed countries and middle-income developing countries?
- What form of cooperation should be established between UNDP and specialized agencies so that the resolution supports food systems transformation without duplicating existing mandates or weakening the principle of institutional complementarity within the UN system?
- What safeguards should be included to ensure that climate-resilient food policies do not reproduce structural inequalities affecting women, Indigenous peoples, rural communities, smallholder farmers, internally displaced persons, children, and persons living in poverty?
- How should the committee address the tension between market-based food systems, local agricultural production, and public regulation, especially in contexts where food insecurity is intensified by price volatility, weak infrastructure, external debt, and dependence on imports?
- How can food security strategies address the legal and developmental implications of land degradation, desertification, water scarcity, and ecosystem loss without exceeding UNDP's mandate or entering into binding environmental regulation?

QARVIAS

- What institutional mechanisms can strengthen coordination between national governments, local authorities, civil society, producer organizations, research institutions, and private actors while preserving public accountability and avoiding the privatization of food security governance?
- How should delegates approach the relationship between social protection and climate-resilient food systems, particularly where populations require immediate protection from hunger but also long-term access to livelihoods, productive resources, and adaptive capacity?
- How can the committee address the specific vulnerability of rain-fed agricultural systems to droughts, floods, heatwaves, and rainfall variability while still respecting local production models, cultural food practices, and national development priorities?
- What forms of South-South and triangular cooperation could be used to exchange technical knowledge on climate-resilient agriculture, local adaptation, food systems governance, traditional knowledge, and community-based governance, while respecting the different capacities, priorities, and development models of participating States, and what safeguards are necessary to ensure that such cooperation does not result in tokenistic participation, unequal knowledge extraction, or the use of local and Indigenous practices without meaningful benefit-sharing?
- What role should UNDP play in supporting domestic institutional reform for food security, including planning capacity, inter-ministerial coordination, local governance, public investment, and adaptation financing, while remaining realistic about its function as a facilitator, coordinator, and capacity-building actor rather than a direct financing institution, and without prescribing a single development model to Member States?
- How can climate adaptation in agriculture be incorporated into national development planning in a legally coherent and institutionally feasible manner, particularly through National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions, SDG imple-

QARVLAS

mentation frameworks, and domestic food security strategies, while also establishing monitoring and evaluation indicators capable of measuring resilience, inclusion, and sustainability without creating excessive administrative burdens for developing States?

- In relation to Burkina Faso, how should delegates evaluate the interaction between climate stress, desertification, water scarcity, internal displacement, insecurity, and dependence on agriculture without reducing the issue to either a purely humanitarian crisis or a purely environmental problem?
- In relation to Bolivia, how should delegates consider the interaction between extreme weather exposure, territorial inequality, Indigenous governance, rural poverty, biodiversity, and sustainable natural resource management without pre-empting the more detailed case-study analysis of the committee?
- How can a resolution use Burkina Faso and Bolivia as illustrative cases to develop a broader framework for climate-resilient food systems, while avoiding overgeneralization between two States with distinct legal traditions, development profiles, ecological conditions, and institutional capacities?
- How should the committee balance technological innovation, such as climate data systems, resilient seeds, irrigation technologies, and digital platforms, with concerns related to accessibility, dependency, affordability, and equitable control over agricultural knowledge?
- What mechanisms can ensure that private-sector participation in food systems transformation supports public development objectives, respects environmental and social safeguards, and does not intensify land concentration, market dependency, or exclusion of small-scale producers?

Food security : A situation in which all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and preferences (FAO, 2024).

Food systems : The full range of actors and interlinked value-adding activities involved in producing, aggregating, processing, distributing, consuming, and disposing of food, together with the broader economic, social, and natural environments in which those activities are embedded (FAO, 2021).

Sustainable food systems : A food system that delivers food security and nutrition for all without compromising the economic, social, and environmental bases needed to sustain food security and nutrition for future generations (HLPE, 2014).

Right to adequate food : The right realized when every person, alone or in community with others, has physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or the means to procure it; in this framework, food must be available, accessible, and adequate (OHCHR, 2004).

Climate-smart agriculture: Agriculture that sustainably increases productivity, strengthens resilience through adaptation, reduces or removes greenhouse gas emissions where possible, and supports national food security and development goals (FAO, 2010).

Agroecology : A holistic and integrated approach that applies ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of sustainable agriculture and food systems, while also promoting socially equitable food systems and informed food choice (FAO, n.d.).

Climate finance: Local, national, or transnational financing from public, private, or alternative sources that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions addressing climate change, with a recognized need for support toward less endowed and more vulnerable Parties (UNFCCC, n.d.).

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs): National climate plans through which each Party to the Paris Agreement communicates its efforts to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change; they are central to the Agreement's implementation (UNFCCC, n.d.).

National Adaptation Plans (NAPs): A planning process designed to reduce vulnerability to climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience and by integrating adaptation coherently into relevant policies, programmes, and development planning (UNFCCC, n.d.).

Loss and damage: The adverse effects associated with climate change impacts, including extreme weather events and slow-onset events, that the UNFCCC addresses through dedicated mechanisms for particularly vulnerable developing countries (UNFCCC, 2020).

GLOSSARY

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The following sources are recommended in order to provide delegates with a comprehensive understanding of the legal, political, economic, environmental, and institutional dimensions of food security systems in the context of climate change. The bibliography reflects the committee's emphasis on multilateral cooperation, sustainable development, resilience-building, and rights-based approaches to food systems transformation. Delegates are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with previous United Nations action, climate governance frameworks, and specialized agency reports relevant to the mandate of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

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