Africa RiskView

END OF SEASON REPORT | BURKINA FASO (2016)

This Africa RiskView End of Season Report is a publication by the African Risk Capacity (ARC). The report discusses Africa RiskView’s estimates of rainfall, drought and population affected, comparing them to information from the ground and from external sources. It also provides the basis of a validation exercise of Africa RiskView, which is conducted in each country at the end of an insured season. This exercise aims at reviewing the performance of the model and ensuring that the country’s drought risk is accurately reproduced by Africa RiskView for drought monitoring and insurance coverage.

For more information visit our website: www.africanriskcapacity.org

Rainfall

The insured season in Burkina Faso covers the period June to early December, with the rains usually lasting from late April to early November. The cumulative rainfall received during the 2016 season varied significantly across the country, in line with normal climatic patterns. In western Burkina Faso (Hauts-Bassins region), as well as in parts of the south-west (Sud-Ouest) and centre (Plateau Central), over 900 mm of rain were received between June and December. Conversely, the northern parts of the country (Sahel region) only recorded around 500 mm of cumulative rains, while between 600 and 800 mm were received in the east (Est region). Compared to the 2001-2015 average, the cumulative rainfall received over the 2016 season was average to slightly above average throughout the country.

An analysis of the spatial and temporal distribution of the rains shows that most regions experienced an early to normal start of the season, and a good distribution of the rains until the end of September 2016. From October onwards, below average rains were recorded in most regions, which suggests that the season ended slightly earlier than normal. Moreover, localised areas of south-western Burkina Faso (Sud-Ouest region) experienced slightly drier than normal conditions in August, while the northern (Sahel) and central regions (Centre and Plateau Central) recorded erratic rains throughout most of the season.

Drought

According to Africa RiskView, the end-of-season WRSI values are in line with the 5-year median in most of the country, with the exception of parts of south-western, south-eastern and northern Burkina Faso, where below normal conditions prevailed at the end of the 2016 season.

African RiskCapacity

For more information visit our website: www.africanriskcapacity.org
in the country, with the south-western regions normally receiving more rains than the more arid north. Compared to the benchmark selected by the country to model normal conditions (median of the previous 5 years), the end-of-season WRSI values are normal throughout most of the country. However, slightly below normal conditions prevailed in parts of south-western, south-eastern and northern Burkina Faso at the end of the 2016 agricultural season.

Compared to external sources, it appears that Africa RiskView’s estimates are lower than FEWS NET’s regional WRSI model for West Africa. FEWS NET’s WRSI suggests that higher WRSI values than those modelled by Africa RiskView prevailed in the country’s south, while the performance of the season in the north was worse, and well below normal. FAO’s Agricultural Stress Index (ASI), a composite indicator based on vegetation and temperature information, suggests that the 2016 agricultural season performed well throughout the country.

During an in-country Africa RiskView validation workshop in October 2016, the TWG confirmed that the 2016 agricultural season began early in some areas, and that the overall performance in terms of agricultural production was above the 5-year average at the national level. Nonetheless, some areas in south-western, central and northern Burkina Faso were affected by localised floods and dry spells which had an impact on agricultural production, only some of which are highlighted as potentially affected by drought in Africa RiskView.
Affected Populations

Based on the vulnerability profiling selected by the in-country TWG, over 6.7 million people are vulnerable to drought in Burkina Faso. At the end of the 2016 agricultural season, Africa RiskView estimates that around 255,000 people were directly affected by drought conditions in south-western Burkina Faso (Sud-Ouest region). Compared to historical drought years modelled by Africa RiskView for the 2001-2016 period, the total number of people affected was well below the historical average of nearly 600,000 people. The major droughts on record in Africa RiskView since 2001 occurred in 2004, 2007, 2011 and 2013.

The 2016 Cadre Harmonisé exercise, concluded in October 2016, found that around 153,000 people were food insecure (Phase 3 or higher) at the time of the analysis. This figure was projected to increase to over 213,000 people for the peak lean season in July/August 2017. The areas projected to be the most affected by food insecurity were the northern, central, south-western and eastern parts of Burkina Faso. It is important to note that the Cadre Harmonisé exercise takes into account all contributing factors of food insecurity, including but not limited to drought.

ARC Risk Pool

Burkina Faso has been a member of the ARC Risk Pool since 2016/17. Given that the attachment level selected by the Government of Burkina Faso (around 1.9 million people) was not reached at the end of the 2016 agricultural season, Burkina Faso did not receive a payout from its policy.

The in-country Technical Working Group with support from the ARC Secretariat, is currently reviewing the customisation of Africa RiskView in view of Burkina Faso’s participation in the 2017/18 ARC Risk Pool. The exercise aims at reviewing the drought index parameters used by the model, as well as updating input data such as the vulnerability profile and poverty information used by Africa RiskView. Potential improvements to the model will help ensure that drought risks are accurately reproduced for drought monitoring and insurance coverage and that the modelling continues to evolve as new information is reported and gathered.
For more information visit our website: www.africanriskcapacity.org
The African Risk Capacity (ARC) is a specialised agency of the African Union designed to improve the capacity of AU Member States to manage natural disaster risk, adapt to climate change and protect food insecure populations.

The Africa RiskView software is the technical engine of ARC. It uses satellite-based rainfall information to estimate the costs of responding to a drought, which triggers a corresponding insurance payout.

The ARC Insurance Company Limited is the financial affiliate of the ARC Agency, which pools risk across the continent through issuing insurance policies to participating countries.

**About ARC:**

**Disclaimer:** The data and information contained in this report have been developed for the purposes of, and using the methodology of, Africa RiskView and the African Risk Capacity Group. The data in this report is provided to the public for information purposes only, and neither the ARC Agency, its affiliates nor each of their respective officers, directors, employees and agents make any representation or warranty regarding the fitness of the data and information for any particular purpose. In no event shall the ARC Agency, its affiliates nor each of their respective officers, directors, employees and agents be held liable with respect to any subject matter presented here. Payouts under insurance policies issued by ARC Insurance Company Limited are calculated using a stand-alone version of Africa RiskView, the results of which can differ from those presented here.

For more information visit our website: www.africanriskcapacity.org