

PeaceCon@10

COVID, Climate, and Conflict:

Rising to the Challenges of a Disrupted World

Presented by:



Alliance for
Peacebuilding

COVID-19 and social cohesion: Key lessons from Informal sector study in Burkina Faso



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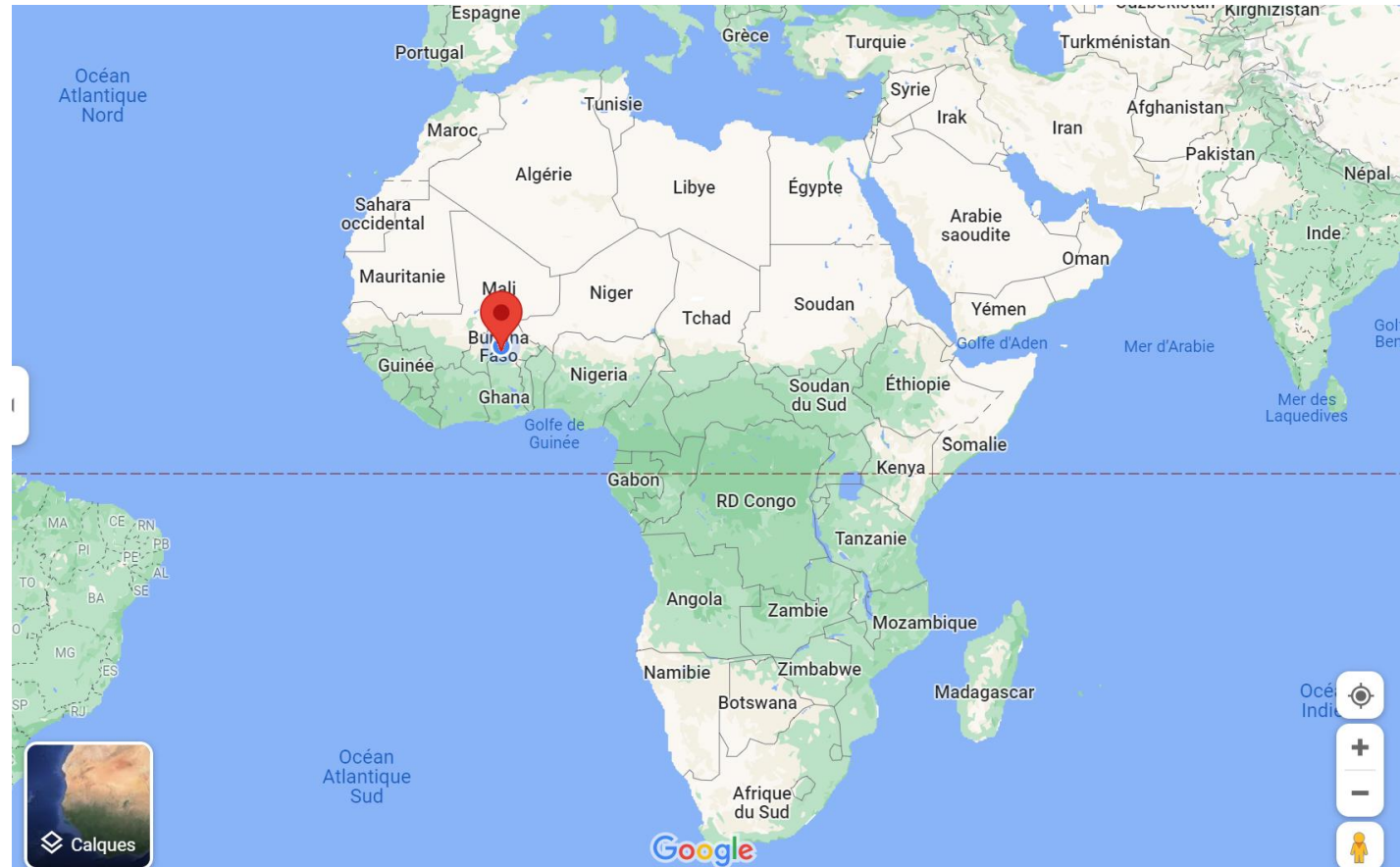
Burkina Faso, West Africa

Summary

- Burkina Faso : an overview
- An overview of COVID-19 in Burkina Faso
- COVID-19 impact on social cohesion
- Conclusion and key lessons

Burkina Faso : an overview

- Literally translated, the name “Burkina Faso” means “country of men of integrity”
- It's a french speaking country located in west Africa (ECOWAS, WAEMU)
- Its population is estimated to be 21 million
- from a macroeconomic perspective, it's a poor country with a GDP/head of 830,93 USD (WB, 2020)
- Today, the terrorism is its main concern. About 3 days ago, the constitution was suspended



An overview of COVID-19 in Burkina Faso

- Burkina Faso has officially recorded its **first case of COVID-19** on **9th March 2020**
- From this date, according to data from the CORUS, the situation is as following

- 3 cases per 100,000 people in the last 7 days
- 87 new infections per day (mean)



Total number
of cases

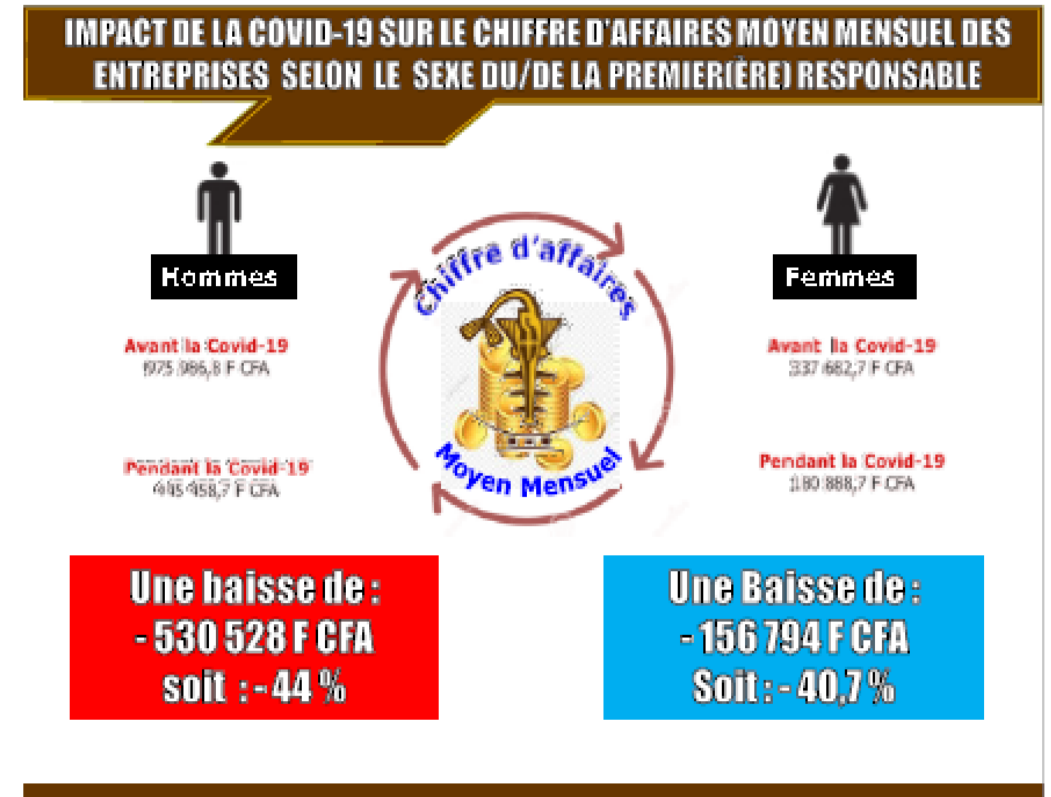
Total number
of recoveries

Total number
of deaths

Total number
of Active cases

COVID-19 impact on social cohesion

- ❑ COVID-19 caused turnover losses of between 25% and 75% in informal sector
 - In a country like Burkina Faso, covering the family needs is largely considered to be man responsibility. Not being able to bring money at home has been a great source of frustration that has deteriorated many couples' lives.
 - One of the households lost its house and the family was divided :The man returned to the village, the woman to her parents, the children to their uncles.



COVID-19 impact on social cohesion

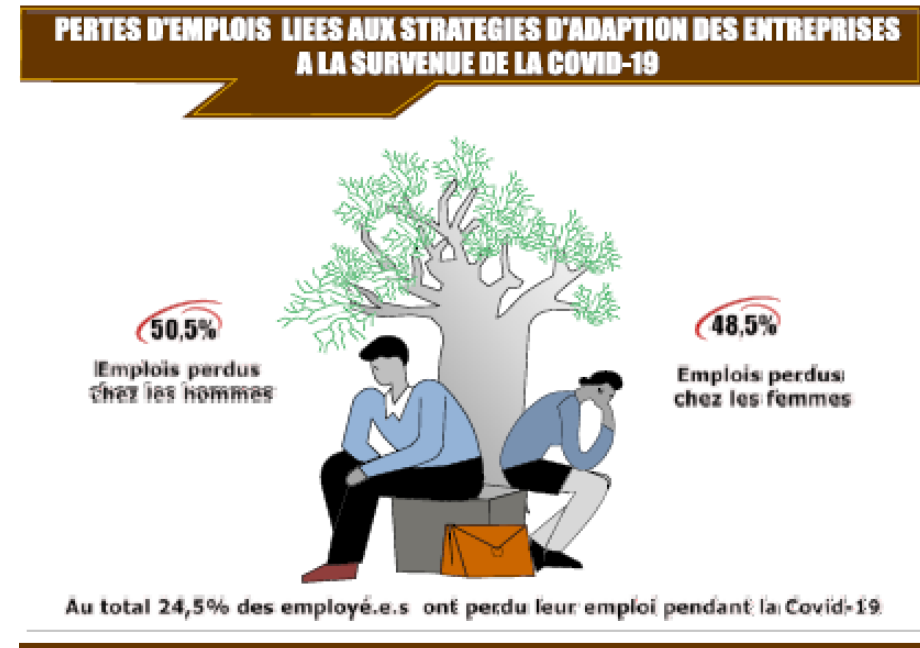
- ❑ The pandemic also resulted in a 24% loss of employment, especially among young people
 - To survive, after 10 days of inactivity, it become for large part of them to just stay at home. The situation led to
 - Civil disobedience (refuse to recognize the virus existence, refuse to listen et apply the proposed measures, etc.)
 - Protests of young traders
 - Clashes with security forces

	Employed young people	Unemployed young people	Diff
Social Cohesion Index	0,90/1	0,88/1	- 0,02

COVID-19 impact on social cohesion

□ Because of the measures taken (Containment, ban of public transportation, curfew), the COVID-19 brought all the member of household to stay at home for more than 15 days, often in a small spaces.

- Not being able to see each other all day long makes possible to hide and better manage certain behaviors. With the containment, this was no longer possible.
- In some households, containment led to violence against women and children in particular. This situation was exacerbated by the fact that men (women) could no longer bring money for the household needs.



Conclusion and key lessons

- ❑ During the COVID-19, women developed survival strategies that retain jobs. Supporting specially women's enterprises could therefore become a job retention policy for young people in a crisis context.
- ❑ Lack of communication and fake news were identified as the most important factors behind the disobedience of young people and demonstrations. This suggests that a reliable information system should be put in place. In the interest social cohesion/peace, a specific communication strategy should be developed in this kind of crisis.
- ❑ In countries like Burkina Faso, access to the internet remains low and quite expensive. Telework is not accessible in a highly informal economy. It is therefore necessary to rethink containment in developing countries.

Thank you



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