Insecurity and COVID-19 in Burkina Faso
Opportunities and Risks for Women in the Shea Value Chain

“The pandemic has pushed many women in the shea value chain into poverty.”
(Kaboré/Zeba Fanny, 2021)
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COVID-19 and insecurity are two scourges that are currently obstructing economic and social well-being in Burkina Faso. They hinder the conduct of agro-sylvo-pastoral activities in this Sahelian country. The actors in the shea butter industry are not immune to these health and security crises. An investigation of the vulnerabilities of the actors in this sector and the opportunities they face proved necessary to contribute to the strengthening of the resilience of shea users and shea parklands by promoting the sustainable and equitable exploitation and management of trees and their products. Information collected through virtual and documentary interviews revealed that the identified negative impacts of the pandemic are also affected by state measures adopted to contain or curb the spread of the Coronavirus-19. The ban on travel between infected towns and the nationwide curfew have slowed down the distribution and/or processing of shea kernels, shea butter and other derived shea products. The increase in unemployment caused by COVID-19 has led to losses in purchasing power due to cash flow difficulties or the temporary suspension of activities. This has led to a reduction in their room for manoeuvre in contributing to, or covering family expenses. The uncertain availability of containers and the lack of control over the rate of rotation of boats in the port have increased logistical problems associated with exports. Difficulties in honoring certain commitments to clients have led to a loss of loyalty and trust, and the suspension and even termination of certain partnership contracts. The holding of international fairs has been suspended. The quality control, especially organic, has been impacted for lack of production, funding and projects, while international buyers have become much more rigorous in quality control with regard to the extended storage and delivery times. However, taxes related to exploitation, production and transactions have remained stable and new responses favoring innovation and local investment initiatives have emerged. The State has also set up an Economic Recovery Fund (COVID-19) to support entrepreneurship, but according to some of the actors interviewed, this aid has not benefited all of them because of the "rather complex" granting conditions. In such a context, each actor seeks to preserve his or her interests before thinking about collective action.

In addition, insecurity increases the risk of worsening the poverty level of households in distressed areas as well as social inequalities, since the rural population depends on agro-sylvo-pastoral production systems. The production link in the shea value chain is the most vulnerable in light of the prevailing insecurity. Women collectors are the first victims of this insecurity and no longer want to venture into the forest to collect the kernels. When the primary actors or the basic link (tree resource and nut collection) are/is affected, the entire chain and thus the entire sector is affected. From 2019 to 2020, the number of internally displaced persons in Burkina Faso increased from 560,033 to 1,074,993 and is composed of 53% women, 47% men and 54% individuals under the age of 15. Approximately 2.1 million people were declared severely food insecure during the June-August period. To combat non-state armed groups, the "koglweogo" or self-defense and militia groups and Volunteers for the Defense of the Homeland (VDP) were formed to support the inadequate response of the Defense and Security Forces.

In short, insecurity in Burkina Faso is jeopardizing the production link of the shea industry, with the flight of workers, and COVID-19 is slowing down the activities of the two links, namely processing and marketing, particularly for export. Despite the enthusiasm and willingness of burkinabe actors to develop and promote the shea industry, there are still challenges to be met, opportunities to be seized and efforts to be made.
Acknowledgements

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We would also like to thank all the people and organizations that gave their time to participate in the interviews conducted for the study: the women shea nut and shea butter producers and their organizations, the transnational and national companies in the shea sector, the resource persons of government technical agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and service providers working in the shea sector, the researchers and the individual traders and agro-entrepreneurs.
Acronyms and abbreviations

3FIL  3F Industries Limited (formerly Foods Fats & Fertilizers Ltd)
AAK  AarhusKarlshamn
ABNORM  Burkinabe Standards, Metrology and Quality Agency
GSA  Global Shea Alliance
ARCEP  Telecommunications and Postal Regulator
BCEAO  Central Bank of West African States
CCI  Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Burkina Faso
CECI  Centre for International Studies and Cooperation-
CGIAR  Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research
CIFOR  Enhanced Integrated Framework
CNRST  Centre national de la recherche scientifique et technologique
CONASUR  National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation
COVID-19  Coronavirus Disease 2019
CRAAK  Centre de recherche sur l’arbre à karité [Shea Tree Research Centre]
IDRC  International Development Research Centre
CSPPA  Agricultural Product Price Stabilization Fund
DES  Directorate of Studies and Strategy
DFS  Data Friendly Space
EBT Trading  Etablissement Bougouma Théophane Trading
Ecocert  Service company that seeks to implement and enhance sustainable practices through certification, training and consulting
FAARF  Women’s Income-Generating Activity Support Fund
FAO  Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
CFAF  Franc of the Financial Community of Africa

FTA  Forests, Trees and Agroforestry
GRET  Group For Research and Technology Exchanges
ICCO  Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation
ICDE  Cabinet d’ingénierie et de conseil en développement d’entreprises
[Engineering and Consulting in Business Development]
ICRAF  International Centre for Research in Agroforestry
iMMAP  International not-for-profit organization that provides information management services to humanitarian and development organizations
INERA  Institut de l’environnement et de recherches agricoles
[Institute for the Environment and Agricultural Research]
IRSAT  Institut de recherche en sciences appliquées et technologies
[Institute for Research in Applied Sciences and Technology]
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCIA</td>
<td>Ministry of Trade, Industry and Handicrafts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEEVCC</td>
<td>Ministry of the Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICA</td>
<td>Ministry of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODDH</td>
<td>Observatory for Democracy and Human Rights</td>
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<td>OFCOM</td>
<td>Marketing Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>OHADA</td>
<td>Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>SME</td>
<td>Small and medium-sized enterprise</td>
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<td>NTFP</td>
<td>Non-timber forest product</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>DFS</td>
<td>Decentralized Financial Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>SNV</td>
<td>Netherlands Development Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>SONABEL</td>
<td>National Electricity Company of Burkina Faso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SONAGESSS</td>
<td>National Food Security Stock Management Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>TFK</td>
<td>Table Filière Karité [Shea Sector Round Table]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAT</td>
<td>Value Added Tax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>United States dollar</td>
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<td>VDP</td>
<td>Volunteers for the Defence of the Homeland</td>
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1 Introduction

Burkina Faso is a highly agricultural country, with 40% of its gross domestic product (GDP) generated by subsistence agriculture (25%), livestock farming (12%) and forest products (3%), of which 2% is produced by the shea sector. The shea sector ranks fourth after the sesame, livestock and cashew sectors, and women currently make up 90% of the workforce. Shea nuts and shea butter are the country’s fourth largest export after gold, cotton and livestock.  

The shea trade began in the 1900s when shea nuts were first exported. The former French West African colony of Upper Senegal and Niger, which included present-day Burkina Faso, exported shea nuts for the production of margarine as early as 1910. In the 1950s, Burkina Faso, then called Upper Volta, created the Agricultural Product Price Stabilization Fund (CSPPA) in an effort to regulate the market. Building on this initial fund, the country established the Marketing Board (OFCOM) in 1960 and a second stabilization fund in 1964 to regulate the shea value chain by guaranteeing the quality of products and exports. Wholesalers from Bobo-Dioulasso dominated the market in the mid-1970s and their position only weakened in the second half of the 1980s following the 1983–1984 fall in cocoa prices. With the growth in demand for shea as an ingredient in the pharmaceutical and cosmetics sectors and as a cocoa butter equivalent, the Burkinabe shea trade took off in the 2000s. According to the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), in 2015 Burkina Faso was not only the second largest exporter of shea nuts and shea butter in West Africa after Ghana, but also the number one producer and consumer of shea products.  

In 2011, the sector created 208,473 jobs in Burkina Faso, of which 21% were part-time employment, 33% permanent employment and 46% non-salaried jobs. It also engaged at least 646,000 households in collecting shea nuts, had 10,696 farmers’ organizations and provided a source of income for approximately 1.5 million women. The value added of the sector is estimated at CFAF 114 billion, around 3.36% of GDP.  

In 2020, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Global Shea Alliance (GSA) reported that the shea value chain creates around 3.5 million seasonal jobs lasting 30 days each year, generates USD 1.9/day of value added for women and provides 450,000 full-time jobs collecting nuts for women per year at the sub-regional level (250 working days).  

The Burkinabe shea sector has its own sector-wide trade organization called Table Filière Karité (Shea Sector Round Table – TFK), constituted in accordance with the OHADA Uniform Act on Cooperatives of 15 December 2010. This round table brings together stakeholders at three stages of
the value chain: production (shea nut production and collection), processing (soap, shea butter and other shea products) and distribution/sale (sale of shea nuts and shea butter-based cosmetics, and exports). Increasing insecurity in Burkina Faso over recent years and the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic have had a negative impact on the country’s economy in general and the growth of agricultural export sectors, including shea, in particular.

This is a joint study undertaken by the “Globalization in a Nutshell – Opportunities and Risks for Women Shea Producers in Burkina Faso’s Shea Parks” project and the CGIAR Research Programme on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA), which has conducted a series of case studies on the impacts of COVID-19 around the world.

These studies aim to better identify and address risks and vulnerabilities associated with agriculture and forestry and to strengthen the resilience of landscapes, value chains and the livelihoods of the people who depend on them. In Burkina Faso, the study focuses specifically on the impact of insecurity and COVID-19 on the shea sector, and on women involved in production in particular.

This report begins by describing how insecurity and the COVID-19 pandemic have unfolded in Burkina Faso. It then considers the vulnerabilities affecting women in the shea value chain and opportunities available to them. Finally, it analyses the potential medium and long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and makes recommendations.

12 Direct stakeholders, the government, technical, financial and commercial partners and other third parties.
13 https://www.afdb.org


text

2 Background and methodology

2.1 Background

The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), with funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), is conducting a joint research project with Bioversity International and the CGIAR Research Programme on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA) entitled “Globalization in a Nutshell – Opportunities and Risks for Women Shea Producers in Burkina Faso’s Shea Parks”. The overarching aim of this research project is to strengthen the resilience of the shea parks and rural shea users by promoting the sustainable and equitable use and management of shea trees and their products in line with the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan and the 2015–2019 National Strategy for the Sustainable Development of the Shea Sector in Burkina Faso, a new version of which is currently being drawn up for 2021–2025.

This study aims to “assess the vulnerabilities affecting rural women producers in the shea value chain and the opportunities available to them” in the current context of the health and security crises.

Growing insecurity and, more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic, along with the measures intended to contain and mitigate it, are having significant repercussions for economies, value chains and livelihoods (Lenzen et al., 2020). The vulnerabilities associated with COVID-19, affecting all societies, economies and livelihoods, and often linked to global trade, are also associated with many other types of risks and shocks, which have been triggered or amplified either by insecurity or by the pandemic and the responses to it.

Against this backdrop, the FTA programme undertook to conduct rapid research on COVID-19 to: (i) identify the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the sectors affected (countries, landscapes, value chains); (ii) mobilize existing research on comparable impacts resulting from other types of crisis to inform the response to the current crisis; and (iii) build on this work to better identify and address risks and vulnerabilities affecting agriculture and forestry and to strengthen the resilience of landscapes, value chains and the livelihoods of the people who depend on them.

This study focuses on the recent impacts of insecurity and the COVID-19 pandemic on women shea producers and the shea value chain. It aims to identify both the vulnerabilities affecting women shea nut and shea butter producers at the different stages of the value chain and the opportunities available to them.

2.2 Methodology

The study was based primarily on semi-structured interviews with different stakeholder groups as well as secondary sources (e.g. newspaper articles and study reports).

The interviews were conducted on- and offline, though were mainly virtual (by phone and email), using a guide adapted from the COVID-19 questionnaire developed by the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) Kenya (Annex 1). The respondents comprised an indicative sample of stakeholders, representing each stage of the shea value chain (Annex 3).
Respondents were drawn from six stakeholder groups:
- The government through its departments involved in regulation, standards, trade and taxation, resource management and shea products;
- Women shea producers (shea nuts, shea butter and other shea products), and their associations and umbrella organizations;
- Traders including agro-entrepreneurs;
- Transnational corporations and local commercial companies;
- NGOs and other service providers including transporters;
- Research and higher education bodies.

Over 30 stakeholders were interviewed in the course of this study.

Once the information gathered had been compiled, we were able to conduct a descriptive analysis. We gained insight into the vulnerabilities affecting women in the shea value chain due to insecurity and COVID-19 by conducting a microeconomic analysis on two fronts: (i) the external, linked to international trade and (ii) the internal, linked to the domestic supply of and demand for shea nuts and shea butter.

The analysis of external factors considers the impact on shea nut and shea butter exports and on the main trading relationships maintained to date. The analysis of internal factors, on the other hand, relates to the effects on local and national production, in particular the supply of and demand for shea nuts and shea butter. It considers working conditions and the different measures introduced by the government to slow the spread of the virus and protect public safety.

We encountered a number of difficulties when conducting the study, the main constraint being the need to consider the ongoing pandemic. This was compounded by the unavailability of certain stakeholders, with some failing to answer calls, a situation exacerbated by the virtual nature of the interviews.
3 Growing insecurity and the COVID-19 pandemic

3.1 Security situation in Burkina Faso

Terrorist activities have increased since the attack on the Splendid Hotel in January 2016 in the country’s capital, Ouagadougou. Since then, unidentified armed groups have carried out deadly attacks in seven of Burkina Faso’s thirteen regions. An increasing number of abductions and attacks have been recorded, as has the continued presence of active armed terrorist groups, across all “classified” forest reserves, national parks, wildlife reserves and hunting concessions. From 2019 to 2020, the number of internally displaced persons in Burkina Faso increased from 560,033 to 1,074,993. Women make up 53% of this group, men 47% and children under 15 years 54%. By early March 2020, the number of internally displaced persons in Burkina Faso increased from 560,033 to 1,074,993. Women make up 53% of this group, men 47% and children under 15 years 54%. "By early March 2020, the number of internally displaced persons in Burkina Faso increased from 560,033 to 1,074,993. Women make up 53% of this group, men 47% and children under 15 years 54%."

Insecurity hinders farmers’ access to their fields, obstructing agricultural and pastoral activities and exacerbating food and nutrition insecurity in high-risk areas. Approximately 2.1 million people were reported to be experiencing acute food insecurity from June to August.

The recurrent attacks have had a considerable impact on the daily lives of local communities, with respect to their agricultural, livestock farming, mining and trading activities in particular, affecting both their working and social lives and, therefore, the entire national economy.

Insecurity, which has knock-on effects on political stability, also discourages investment, especially foreign direct investment, which is redirected to other, safer places.

“(i) security spending, financed from the public budget, can displace productive public investment, i.e. investment to support production; (ii) insecurity can reduce profits and productivity by increasing transaction costs due to higher wages, higher insurance premiums and higher spending on security; (iii) it can lead donors to withhold aid on the grounds of instability-related concerns; (iv) and affect economic growth due to the destruction..."
of infrastructure and the loss of human capital, hindering trade in the short term and driving internal displacement;” (Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Directorate of Studies and Strategy (CCI-DES), 2019).

In an effort to overcome this threat to human security, the Burkinabe Government has undertaken reforms in the areas of prevention and enforcement intended to protect its population. It has, for example, deployed large numbers of defence and security forces on the ground, adopted legislation (see Table 1), drawn up a security policy, set up judicial and law enforcement units and launched a counter-terrorism enforcement campaign.24 “Koglweogo”,25 or Volunteers for the Defence of the Homeland (VDP), have also been set up to bolster the weak response of the defence and security forces as they seek to deal with non-state armed groups.26 Religious leaders have also been mobilized to raise public awareness and deconstruct radical ideas used to incite terrorist attacks.

### Table 1. Laws, conventions and strategies addressing terrorism in Burkina Faso

| Act No. 006-2017/an of 19 January 2017 | on the establishment, organization and operations of a judicial unit specializing in counter-terrorism enforcement |
| Act No. 016-2016/an of 3 May 2016 | on combating money laundering and the funding of terrorism in Burkina Faso |
| Decree No. 2012-1136/PRES/PM/MEF of 31 December 2012 | designating the competent authority for administrative asset freezing, implementing the Act combating the funding of terrorism. Official Gazette No. 16 of 18 April 2013 |
| Act No. 061-2009/year of 17 December 2009 | combating the funding of terrorism |
| Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism |
| National Strategy to Combat Radicalization and Violent Extremism |

#### 3.2 COVID-19 pandemic: A case study of Burkina Faso

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19), which emerged in December 2019 in Wuhan Province, China, has spread around the world, giving rise to health, economic and humanitarian challenges.27 The first case of COVID-19 in the country was recorded on 9 March 2020 in the capital, causing panic among the Burkinabe people.28 The results of forecasts estimating that the pandemic could kill around 300,000 people in Africa29 and infect 6 million to 7 million people if no preventive measures are taken30 contributed to this fear. As at 24 May 2021, Burkina Faso had recorded 13,415 cases and 165 deaths due to COVID-19. This compares with 5,863,138 cases and 107,390 deaths in France and 33,238,422 cases and 594,188 deaths in the United States.31 The number of cases and deaths is therefore comparatively low in Burkina Faso (0.08 %).

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25 Self-defence militia groups, from the Mossi for “bush guardians”.
26 iMMAP & DFS, 2020.
30 Guiro et al., 2020; Zio et al., 2020.
31 https://www.coronavirus-statistiques.com/stats-pays/ (consulté le 24/05/2021)
The Burkinabe Government has adopted a number of measures to contain the spread of the virus:³² quarantining affected towns, closing public markets, schools, universities and places of worship, closing the country’s borders to limit the movement of people, introducing curfews and banning gatherings of more than 50 people (see Table 2). However, public compliance with these restrictions has been very low, to the detriment of the national economic outlook.³³ Burkina Faso has also implemented a CFAF 177.9 billion response plan (approximately USD 300 million).³³ The pandemic has led to the deterioration of the socio-economic situation of various categories of households and has counteracted the efforts made over many years to reduce poverty and inequality.³⁴ Unemployment and the loss of purchasing power due to poor cash flow and the temporary suspension of activities have impacted people working in the informal sector.³⁵ COVID-19 has had a number of knock-on-effects. Figure 1, produced during the initial months of the pandemic, sets out its potential impacts.

### 3.3 Catalysts of vulnerability for women in the shea value chain

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the shea value chain and women working with shea are not related to its direct effect on health. Rather, the adverse impacts identified are caused by the measures taken to contain or slow the spread of the virus. These measures include:

- **Closing borders:** Extortion is, unfortunately, common at border control posts even though the movement of goods is permitted. Transporting goods from one country to another has become difficult and there is an increased risk of losses during transit.

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³² https://www.fes.de
³³ https://reliefweb.int
• Locking down cities: Restrictions on the movement of people limited where people could go.
• Imposing a curfew: Women (producers of shea butter and other derivatives) who met up to work were forced to suspend production.

• Physical distancing: This measure limited women’s ability to work in groups.
• These measures have disrupted international trade and increased transport costs, damaged investor confidence and partners’ trust, and led to insecurity, as access to agroforestry parks and classified forest reserves is now limited.

Table 2. Legislation governing the management of the COVID-19 pandemic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order or Decree</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tr>
<td>Order No. 2020-021/PM/CAB of 23 March 2020</td>
<td>on temporary restrictions as part of special measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19</td>
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<td>Decree No. 2020-0240 PRES/PM/MS/MDNAC/MESCU/MINEFID of 30 March 2020</td>
<td>on the quarantining of cities with at least one case of COVID-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decree No. 2020-0215/PRES of 21 March 2020 on the introduction of a curfew</td>
<td>on the introduction of a curfew</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interministerial Order No. 2020-117/MS/MDNAC/MATDC/MSECU/MTMUSR of 1 April 2020</td>
<td>laying down the conditions for leaving and entering quarantined cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decree No. 2020-0239/PRES/PM/MS/MDNNAC/MATDSC/ECU/MINEFID of 30 March 2020</td>
<td>establishing a health-related state of emergency throughout the national territory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decree No. 2020-0271/PM/MDNAC/MATDC/MSECU/MS/MTMUSR of 15 April 2020</td>
<td>on temporary restrictions as part of special measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, repealing Order No. 2020-021/PM/CAB of 23 March 2020</td>
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4 Stakeholder vulnerability in the context of COVID-19 and insecurity

Our analysis of COVID-19 and insecurity-related vulnerabilities affecting stakeholders in the shea value chain in Burkina Faso focuses on two key points. First, we consider changes to how the value chain operates, before examining changes in the environment and the resulting socio-economic vulnerabilities affecting women in the shea value chain.

4.1 Impacts on the shea value chain

The shea value chain is composed of a wide range of trades and activities, each as important as the next when it comes to meeting the demand for shea products from its different segments. Factors affecting stakeholders at the very start of the value chain (trees and nut collection) have a knock-on effect on the whole value chain and, therefore, the whole sector.

4.1.1 Impact of COVID-19

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has reduced external demand for shea nuts and shea butter and increased local demand. Fortunately, operating, production and transaction costs have remained stable. Shea nut volumes have fallen, possibly due to lower yields in recent years compounding security-related factors that hinder collection activities. Distribution routes have had to change and subcontractors have been used to mitigate the impact on the flow of shea products to regional and global markets.

Organizing logistics has become a challenge because, in the current health climate, it is difficult to determine when containers will be available and how long it will take to turn ships around in port. International buyers are now conducting much more rigorous quality checks on shea nuts and shea butter with regard to storage and transit timelines.

Delays to international shipments of shea products have become the norm. “With Chronopost or the train, for example, delivery times ranged from a week to 10 days; the flow of traffic slowed and many fairs couldn’t be held.”36 “The orders didn’t come in in time, so the contracts with the women’s cooperatives weren’t signed early enough and the containers left late.”37 The organic sector has been badly hit by COVID-19 because the quality of organic products deteriorates when they are stored for a long time. This is the case for Olvea, for example, which recorded a fall in organic production compared to last year (2019), but an increase in fair trade production. The company even made the difficult decision to stop supplying organic shea to one of its customers in Europe.

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36 Personal communication: 14/06/2021 at 16:00
37 Personal communication: 10/06/2021 at 15:00

Story 1

“Our partners are saying that Burkina is now in the ‘orange zone’. That they don’t want to go there, to lose their money in the country. They listed three countries: Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali; they aren’t going to work with us, ... I’ve had to subcontract with a woman in Guinea, so I don’t lose everything. Over there you can’t export if you aren’t a registered business and you need to have nationality; it’s not like here, anyone can come and buy and leave!”

Source: 04/03/2021 at 15:06
4.1.2 Impact of insecurity

The production stage of the shea value chain is the most vulnerable to the insecurity currently plaguing Burkina Faso. Responsible for collecting the shea nuts that constitute the first link in the chain, it is women who are most affected by this insecurity. They no longer want to venture into the bush to collect shea nuts.

“For a while now they’ve gone out with their husbands, who risk being killed if they’re caught by armed outlaws.”

“Even in areas where there aren’t as many terrorists, people have lost confidence and women are scared to go into the forest because of all the cases of rape and assault recorded.”

“Insecurity has pushed the workforce (female collectors) to flee from production areas, especially in the Est region, to camps for displaced people.”

The dual crisis (COVID-19 and insecurity) seems to have had a positive impact on the shea tree stock as a result of reduced activity at the production stage and the alleviation of human pressures on natural resources, particularly forestry resources.

However, there is a risk that, if they fall on hard times, women might seek to minimize production costs by disregarding previously agreed good environmental practices. For example, “there are farmers’ organisations that used to invest in reforestation campaigns, tree health taxes and assisted natural regeneration activities to protect the trees, or that worked with water and forestry agents when collecting to ensure their safety. But when these organisations’ income is squeezed, they no longer invest in these environmental practices.”

In short, the pandemic – particularly during the months of lockdown imposed in Burkina Faso – has affected processing and distribution more than production, while insecurity has had a greater impact on production. To illustrate: “the Est region is a collection/production area because it’s full of shea trees. But with terrorism and landmines in the forests, even in groups, women can no longer go out to collect nuts. The word is that the shea trees did not fruit this year. That’s not true; there just hasn’t been a lot of collecting. The women haven’t been able to collect and in this region, some areas are now closed due to insecurity.”

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38 Personal communication: 04/03/2021 at 15:06
39 Personal communication: 09/03/2021 at 11:00
40 Personal communication: 28/05/2021 at 10:00
41 Pressure on shea tree resources due to the collection of immature fruits, cutting for wood or charcoal and the waste produced by the churning process which was causing significant environmental damage.
42 Personal communication: 09/03/2021 at 11:00
43 Personal communication: 10/03/2021 at 10:53
4.2 Vulnerabilities affecting stakeholders in the shea value chain

Environmental changes, growing insecurity in the country and the COVID-19 pandemic have had a significant impact on forest product exploitation in Burkina Faso. These factors have made women working at the three stages of the shea value chain more vulnerable.\textsuperscript{44}

4.2.1 Environmental changes

The environmental changes observed are both natural and human in origin. The northern habitat limit of shea has migrated southwards with the decrease in levels of rainfall.\textsuperscript{45} The fruiting cycle of shea trees, which used to be biennial or triennial, has become unpredictable.\textsuperscript{46} Pressure on natural resources, including pressure due to agricultural expansion, is also hampering efforts to protect shea trees and assist regeneration. Moreover, the protected status of shea trees leads to distrust among farmers and makes them think carefully about how this resource is protected.\textsuperscript{47} Indeed, they often decide against planting trees in their fields. “Even if they know how to regenerate shea trees, they won’t keep many plants in their fields for fear that they won’t be able to cut them down in the future to limit overcrowding and shade. However, shea trees have higher yields in fields than on fallow land, and they need fallow land to regenerate. They can’t grow on poor soil either and they regenerate better in tussocks of grass like Piliostigma which provide islands of fertility.”\textsuperscript{48}

Poor recourse to organic farming practices and advancing agricultural frontiers\textsuperscript{49} disrupt ecosystems and exacerbate the negative impact of destructive activities on forests and trees.

The storage of seeds and the regeneration of shea trees is also hindered by parasitic attacks,\textsuperscript{50} which impair how well seeds germinate (causing seedlings to die after two to three months). Diseases affecting shea trees reduce yields and lead to the premature death of the tree.

Stakeholders at each stage of the value chain work in different environments and have divergent interests, making it difficult for them to take concerted action as has been done in the cotton and cashew nut sectors. Amid the pandemic, “it’s every man for himself; you have to look out for your own interests first before thinking together.”\textsuperscript{51}

4.2.2 Economic impact

Countries in the northern hemisphere – the major importers of shea products – have been hardest hit by the pandemic (Baldwin and Weder de Mauro, 2020). The impact of the pandemic on these countries has had repercussions for the market in Burkina Faso, which is mainly driven by exports (around 90% of shea nuts are exported), as the drop in demand from major buyers like AAK, Bunge Loders Croklaan (BLC), 3F Industries Limited (3FIL), L’Occitane and Olvea has reverberated back along the shea value chain.

Western countries import shea butter and shea nuts for the production of cosmetics and stearin (used to manufacture chocolate). But the pandemic has changed how consumers behave, which has had a significant impact on the profitability of consumer goods sectors, including the chocolate industry.\textsuperscript{52}

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\textsuperscript{44} Three stages of the shea value chain: production, processing and distribution.

\textsuperscript{45} Personal communication: 19/05/2021 at 08:00

\textsuperscript{46} Personal communication: 10/06/2021 at 15:00

\textsuperscript{47} Order 2004/019/MECV of 7 July 2004 establishing the list of forest species benefiting from special protection measures. Shea trees are also classed as “vulnerable” on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

\textsuperscript{48} Personal communication: 19/05/2021 at 08:00

\textsuperscript{49} Statistics from the 2019 population census show that 45% of the population is under 15 years and around 75% of people live in rural areas.

\textsuperscript{50} Plant parasites: Agelanthus dodoneifolius, T. glohoferus, T. aphiodes; animal parasites: Cirina butyropermi, Musidia, Nephopteryx, Salebria sp., Bractocera, Ceratitis, Cerambyx cerdo, etc.

\textsuperscript{51} Personal communication: 14/06/2021 at 16:00

\textsuperscript{52} SHEA 2021 CONFERENCE: Demand Perspectives in the Era of COVID-19, 27 April 2021
Companies with large stocks of shea nuts or shea butter that had to suspend production due to lockdowns suspended orders for these products from Burkina Faso and elsewhere, causing demand to stagnate.

Farmers’ organizations and cooperatives that collect for AAK, l’Occitane, Olvea and other multinationals have ended up with large volumes of undelivered produce. This situation has driven down prices and put pressure on the storage capacity of their farmers’ facilities. Rural women struggle to store their stocks of shea nuts and shea butter over long periods while still maintaining their properties and quality, making it difficult for them to satisfy the market’s demanding quality requirements.

As regards its impact on global demand for shea nuts and shea butter, COVID-19 has increased price pressures, reducing income for women in the value chain, and disrupted the economic model of small-scale farming enterprises and farmers’ organisations in Burkina Faso.

At the global shea conference, held in April 2021, it was noted that the demand outlook for shea products will depend on how long the pandemic lasts.

Farmers’ organizations are operating, supplying their clients and excelling at providing income-generating services to their mostly female members.

The impact of the pandemic on the cash flow of these farmers’ organizations has led to a breakdown in customer loyalty and confidence, as some have had (or are still having) difficulty honouring their commitments. Under the OHADA system, farmers’ organizations operate as cooperatives, i.e. with a share capital, and if they accumulate losses, this can eat into their share capital and may lead to their dissolution.

There is also a risk that business networks will be lost along with income for women and flows of foreign currency into the country. Moreover, due

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53 Downward pressure on the international market and upward pressure on the local market as the supply of imported refined oils has decreased.

54 Higher volume and higher priced global demand has declined in favour of much smaller local demand.


56 This uncertainty makes customers reluctant to provide advances to farmers’ organizations and financial institutions reluctant to lend to them, yet the women only work when they are paid in cash.

57 These organizations have insufficient cash flow to weather the shock, pay their members and satisfy those customers they still have, while they wait for the shea market to return to normal.

58 OHADA, headquartered in Yaoundé (Cameroon), deals with business law matters via different Uniform Acts adopted by the 17 member states.

59 Some farmers’ organizations have fallen into debt because they took customer advances and could not honour their contracts, because they took out bank loans and did not work or sell their produce, or because they have not been paid by their customers.
Insecurity and COVID-19 in Burkina Faso

Women are also made more vulnerable by the social and cultural constraints they face. Women in rural areas, for example, do not enjoy the right to own land. While they might be permitted to collect shea nuts and other fruits, such as Parkia biglobosa (African locust bean) pods, on their husbands’ land, they are often only paid once the products are sold. Moreover, picking is prohibited on certain days by custom, such as on Fridays in Gurunsi tradition.

4.2.3 Business continuity

Pillars of family wellbeing in rural areas, women tend to generate income from nature-based goods and services. Unfortunately, COVID-19 and insecurity have led to unemployment and the dissolution of shea farmers’ organizations and cooperatives, the majority of whose members are women. Some women and organizations took on debt to run their businesses and have been left with unsold shea nuts, no potential buyers and loans to repay. These women have lost their financial independence as their savings and working capital are used to repay bank loans. Other women, who took advances or credit from their farmers’ organizations, have been unable to collect enough shea nuts or have been affected by the fall in purchase prices, and have therefore ended up making a loss.

Some farmers’ organizations are putting enormous pressure on their members, to the point of making threats, because they too have taken out bank loans and accepted advances from their customers. Consequently, some women live in fear of losing the equipment they need to work (e.g. cooking pots). They are also less able to contribute to family expenses, such as their children’s education, due to the decline in production and the resulting drop in income. Indeed, these women are reliant on the income they generate from the collection or processing of non-timber forest products (NTFP).

Story 7

“I had to close my shop, which is in the dry port. You’re there, there’s no market, the tax authorities tax you. You have to pay... I had at least thirty seasonal workers, they are there, it’s such a pity, I had to close. I laid off everyone, I closed, I came to sit it out in Ouaga...”

Source: 08/03/2021 at 08:30

Story 8

“If you sign a contract when you can’t get money to work... For example, I went to talk with the bank, they ask me for a three-storey house. I told them, if I had that, I would sell it and use the proceeds for my business, yes! In other countries it’s not like that, but here, it’s complicated. And now buyers are saying our country is high risk. They don’t want to sign contracts with us anymore; we’re at a loss about what to do. The authorities don’t help us, we’re tied up with what’s happening abroad; what should we do?”

Source: 04/03/2021 at 15:06

Story 9

“I mortgaged my house (my home) to get the loan, but now the bailiffs are after me because the deadline has passed and I can’t pay the debt. It’s not my fault. Due to COVID-19, our clients have delayed paying their bills, so I don’t have anything to pay back the loan, or to pay the women. Some of the women have accused me of stealing their money. They made a complaint and even went to the koglweogo (self-defence and militia groups). On 22 October 2020, they raided my house to take me away (I’ll never forget that date). That shame, my girl! The neighbours came out... Fortunately they understood when I explained what was going on and why the members hadn’t been paid. That’s when they left.”

Source: 08/03/2021 at 08:30

Women are also made more vulnerable by the social and cultural constraints they face. Women

60 Personal communication: 10/03/2021 at 10:52
61 For example, REKAF, Karitis and Liza Export.
5 Opportunities and challenges for women shea producers

Stakeholders in the shea value chain have taken steps to respond and provide support to mitigate and address their own vulnerabilities caused by insecurity and COVID-19. While this dual crisis has had negative impacts, there are still opportunities, as well as challenges, out there for the shea sector.

5.1 Response and support measures

We have considered three types of stakeholders in the shea sector:

Direct stakeholders
- Women in the shea value chain have taken steps to adapt to the current context and protect their lives, including:
  - Pivoting from the production of shea butter to the production of alcohol-based sanitizer gel, soap and cosmetics, for example. The Burkinabe Standards, Metrology and Quality Agency (ABNORM) has guided some women through the process of certifying their sanitizer gel.
  - Organizing into groups to collect nuts, often accompanied by men, in areas where terrorism is not a major concern.
  - Using burning to eliminate potential terrorist hiding spots in the forest and on the outskirts of villages.
  - Using mobile phone networks to conduct financial transactions, enabling women producers and processors to pay to transport their shea nuts and shea butter to collection points and market towns.
  - Subcontracting at the distribution stage to meet demand from customers who are still operating.

The government

The Burkinabe Government launched a large-scale awareness-raising campaign on barrier measures, set up a coordination and monitoring unit for the pandemic and introduced restrictions. It also adopted 14 tax and financial support measures, four support measures for companies in difficulty, 13 social support measures and five economic recovery measures62 (see Table 1), as well as fiscal measures. For example, the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Fund was launched in 2020 to support entrepreneurship following the outbreak of COVID-19 in Burkina Faso by granting credit at a reduced interest rate of 3.5% (rather than 10%) to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and very small enterprises whose activities are impacted by the pandemic. Two committees were set up to manage and monitor this fund. The first63 managed requests for funding from companies from the banking sector and the second64 managed requests for funding from the Decentralised Financial Systems (DFS) and the National Financing Fund (FNF).

The Government of Burkina Faso has also awarded a number of subsidies and authorized the creation of marketing licences.

63 Composed of: the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Development; the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Handicrafts; the Ministry for Youth and the Promotion of Young Entrepreneurs; the Ministry of Transport, Urban Mobility and Road Safety; the Ministry for Women, National Solidarity, Family and Humanitarian Action; the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Burkina Faso; Maison de l’Entreprise du Burkina Faso; and the Professional Association of Banks and Financial Institutions of Burkina Faso.
64 Composed of: the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Development; the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Handicrafts; the Burkinabe Fund for Economic and Social Development; the National Fund for Inclusive Finance; the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Burkina Faso; the Agency for Financing and Promotion of SMEs; the Professional Association of Decentralised Financial Systems; and the Chartered Management Centre.
Table 3. Measures taken by the Government of Burkina Faso to contain the spread of Covid-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of measures</th>
<th>Content</th>
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</table>
| **Tax and access to financing** | • Reduction of penalties and fines due  
• Suspension of on-site checks, except where there is evidence of fraud  
• Exemption of micro-enterprises in the informal sector from contributions  
• Exemption from taxes and Customs duties on pharmaceutical products, medical consumables and equipment used to control Covid-19  
• Exemption of products used to control Covid-19 from value added tax (VAT)  
• Deferral of the vehicle tax payment deadline to the end of June 2020  
• Issuing of tax status certificates to companies in breach of their tax obligations until 30 June 2020  
• Suspension of the employers’ apprenticeship tax on wages for companies in the passenger transport and hospitality sector  
• Suspension of proceedings relating to the recovery of tax debts and the collection of the flat-rate minimum for businesses in the passenger transport, hospitality, catering and tourism sector  
• Twenty-five percent reduction of the tax on businesses in the passenger transport, hospitality and tourism sector  
• Application of a reduced VAT rate of 10% to the hospitality and catering sector  
• Suspension of charges and taxes levied on the organization of cultural activities  
• Cancellation of penalties for delayed execution of public contracts with both the central and local authorities  
• Direct tax relief based on individual case review in extreme cases  |
| **Support for companies in difficulty** | • Deferral of deadlines for businesses that request it  
• Passing on the decreased cost of Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) resources to interest rates for customer loans, as part of the restructuring of loans to domestic companies  
• Use of government subsidies to the private media to support the sector  
• Fifty percent reduction for 2020 in the TNT fee for televisions and Telecommunications and Postal Regulator (ARCEP) fees for broadcast media  |
| **Social support** | • Covering water bills in the social sector and free use of water fountains  
• Covering electricity bills for people using single-phase 3 amp connections  
• Lowering electricity bills by 50% for people using single-phase 5- and 10-amp connections  
• Cancellation of penalties on National Electricity Company of Burkina Faso (SONABEL) and National Bureau for Water and Sanitation (ONEA) bills  
• Fifty percent reduction in the cost of school kits as part of the Solar Home System project for vulnerable households  
• Reactivation of the shops run by the National Food Security Stock Management Company (SONAGESS)  
• Securing stocks of consumer staples, in consultation with supply chain stakeholders, and strengthening domestic price controls  
• Suspension of rents for closed markets and yaars (small markets)  
• Suspension of stall fees for closed markets and yaars  
• Covering water and electricity bills for closed markets and yaars  
• Covering security fees for closed markets and yaars  
• Provision of food parcels to vulnerable people from closed markets and yaars through their umbrella organizations  
• Free parking for taxis from closed markets and yaars  |
| **Support for economic recovery** | • Establishment of a CFAF 100 billion COVID-19 economic recovery fund for companies in difficulty  
• Acquisition of agricultural supplies and livestock feed to support food and pastoral production at a cost of CFAF 30 billion  |

Continued on next page
There have not been any research programmes focused specifically on shea and its properties. The majority of research funding is focused on viral diseases. The quality control of shea nuts and shea butter, in particular organic products, has been impacted by COVID-19 because farmers’ organizations are no longer conducting checks due to the lack of production, funding or projects. Indeed, the majority of organizations only conduct these checks as part of a project or programme. Despite the support provided by projects, stakeholder capacity is still insufficient and producers are unable to comply with specifications.

“For example, as part of the Est diagnostic, support and quality control programme (VALPAPE), producers in Est were sending products to the Laboratory due to the insecurity.

Despite the restrictions and barriers associated with COVID-19, the cost of compliance testing is still set at CFAF 15,000 for shea butter and certification costs a minimum of CFAF 200,000, which increases with the size (number of employees) of the company.

The Directorate General for the Green Economy, in collaboration with the Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO), has produced an illustrated guide to raise awareness among women exploiting non-timber forest products, including shea products.

**Multinationals**

The majority of multinationals involved in the Burkinabe shea sector are located in the west of the country, where terrorist attacks are less frequent compared with the east and north. Insecurity has, therefore, had little impact on the activities of these companies. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has slowed and disrupted their activity schedules. These multinational shea companies have been negatively impacted by lockdowns in northern countries where their clients are located, the closure of land and air borders, and the quarantining of cities with cases of Covid-19. Olvea, for example, has had to contend with longer delivery times, a decline in its organic production and delays to signing contracts, as well as awareness signage requirements, the installation of hand-washing stations, the provision of sanitizer gels and masks, illustrated guides, and training on how to manufacture gels and soap.

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**Story 10**

“Farmers’ organizations are still waiting for projects that will handle their quality control; they don’t want to pay for it. But it’s difficult to stabilise the fats. If the butter is of a high quality, it degrades more slowly. But alas! With the insecurity, for example, people in Est were sending their products to the Institute for Research in Applied Sciences and Technology (IRSAT) laboratory as part of implementation... When it comes to standards as well, individual companies don’t request them. Those that do request them are supported by either a project or a programme.”

Source: 19/03/2021 at 10:00

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of measures</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Establishement of a mutual support fund for informal sector workers, in particular for women, to enable them to resume their vegetable and fruit trading activities, at a cost of CFAF 5 billion&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Funding for infectious disease research and pharmaceutical production at a cost of CFAF 15 billion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ongoing repayment of the national debt</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<sup>a</sup> Autorité de régulation des communications électroniques et des postes – Telecommunications and Postal Regulator

<sup>b</sup> The Support Fund for Women’s Income-Generating Activities (FAARF) for 2020–2021 helps women whose businesses have been affected by COVID-19 to access finance.

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65 Personal communication: 19/03/2021 at 09:00

66 Personal communication: 28/05/2021 at 10:00
5.2 Opportunities and challenges

Despite the unfavourable backdrop of the dual security and health crisis for the Burkinabe shea sector, there are opportunities and benefits that stakeholders can take advantage of to rise to the challenges it poses.

5.2.1 Opportunities

Opportunities still open to women in the shea sector include:

- **Shea butter as a sought-after product in the chocolate and cosmetics industries**: the best substitute for cocoa butter, it is rich in stearic acid (estimated at 45%) and triglyceride (stearoyl-oleoyl-stearoyl, estimated at 40%).

- **The increase in the market value of shea nuts**: seven years ago, a kilogram of dry nuts would sell for around CFAF 100. Now, although the price fluctuates and depends on production in a given year, the average is CFAF 200 per kilo. In 2018, at the start of the season the value was CFAF 175 per kilo and by the end of the season it had increased to CFAF 325, compared with CFAF 175 and CFAF 185 respectively for 2020.

- **High production potential**: only 32% of the annual production potential, estimated at 1,250,000 tonnes of shea nuts, is harvested in Burkina Faso. The national stand is estimated at approximately 305,401,000 trees, with a national average density of 11.49 trees per hectare.

- **The drive in the sector to find alternative ways to use shea trees and products**: the positive contribution of shea to the socio-economic, nutritional and health status of the population has sparked renewed awareness and interest among political actors and partners, who are mobilizing to support the development of the sector.

- **The profitability of shea butter compared with refined oils**: on the local market, 1 kilo of shea butter sells for between CFAF 1,750 and CFAF 2,000 (around EUR 2.67) compared with around CFAF 1,000 for 1 litre of cooking oil. The technology used to separate shea butter into fractions has not yet been implemented in Burkina Faso.

- **Adding value to other NTFPs**: for example, by fermenting the seeds of the Parkia biglobosa to produce Soumbala.

- **The growth of e-commerce**: which is improving the global visibility of Burkinabe shea products.

- **The existence of a Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for the Advancement of Women**: the technical/implementing body responsible for the advancement of women in the various state ministries, it promotes, among other things, the economic empowerment of women and girls through the development of leadership skills, income-generating activities and entrepreneurship.

- **Good governance charters**: which set out ethical principles and good practices to improve how stakeholders engage throughout the value chain and in professional organizations. They promote transparency and accountability around good governance by stakeholders in the shea value chain.

5.2.2 Challenges

Against the backdrop of insecurity and Covid-19, the main challenges facing the shea sector are:

- **Building stakeholder capacity** around processing shea nuts in line with international standards.

- **Adopting appropriate high-performance processing equipment** to increase production and encouraging the establishment of safe and hygienic production sites.

- **Supporting research on shea**: Research on shea is conducted by public bodies (e.g. INERA, the National Forest Seed Centre (CNSF), Institute for Research in Applied Sciences and Technology (IRSAT)) and private companies (e.g. AAK). The CRAAK shea tree research centre, set up by AAK, is dedicated to research on shea trees. These efforts are still insufficient and need to be strengthened.

- **Improving resource sustainability**: If large-scale shea restoration and domestication programmes are not implemented, the long-term sustainability of the Burkinabe shea
sector is at risk due to ageing shea parks, poor regeneration of shea trees and the continued degradation of forest and tree resources.\footnote{71}

- **Strengthening the organizational and institutional capacity of farmers’ organizations:** As their economic model has been put under strain by the Covid-19 pandemic, the commitment of farmers’ organizations’ members has waned, disrupting their operations and jeopardizing their long-term survival.

- **Setting the price of shea nuts and shea butter:** The government should set a minimum purchase price before the start of the harvest season, as is done for cotton, to prevent more powerful downstream stakeholders in the shea value chain underpaying women producers, who are both more numerous and more vulnerable.

- **Enhancing women’s role in the sector by enabling them to add more value at the local level:** “Women are the key stakeholders in the sector, but in reality they are workers.”

- **Safeguarding the export market:** Stakeholders’ capacity to supply the volumes and quality of products (shea nuts and shea butter) demanded by the market must be restored. Enabling Burkinabe shea products to obtain certification labels will be decisive in this regard.

- **Ensuring the viability of small-scale artisanal shea processing units:** As the market contracts and uncertainty increases, small-scale units with insufficient cash flow risk being squeezed out by multinational shea companies that are more resilient to shocks.

- **Overcoming social and cultural constraints in certain areas that hinder the development of the sector:** For example, in Boucle du Mouhoun family farming is the dominant model and shea nut collection is, consequently, prioritized to the detriment of processing.\footnote{72}

- **Ensuring access to working capital:** The production of shea nuts and shea butter requires a high level of investment. As the market contracts and uncertainty increases, some farmers’ organizations’ clients are reluctant to grant seasonal advances because they have lost confidence. This raises the issue of women’s access to credit and the financial autonomy of stakeholders in the sector more generally. The TFK is negotiating with the Burkinabe Government for the introduction of a compulsory flat-rate contribution to be levied on shea nut and shea butter exports and earmarked for the benefit of shea sector stakeholders.

- **Reconciling the informal nature of the sector with the level of professionalism required by the export market:** The vast majority of stakeholders in the sector have no knowledge of entrepreneurship or business management.

- **Producing reliable statistics on the shea sector:** Existing data on the shea sector (stakeholders, products, prices, quantities, etc.) are patchy and often out of date. They are, however, needed for the development and implementation of coherent and effective strategies and programmes to develop the sector, whether led by public bodies or by direct stakeholders and their partners.

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\footnote{71}{Personal communication 08/03/2021 at 08:30}
\footnote{72}{Personal communication: 19/03/2021 at 09:00}
6 Analysis of the potential effects of the dual crisis

The assessment of the potential effects of the dual health (Covid-19 pandemic) and security (terrorism) crisis on the shea sector in Burkina Faso is based on the statements of the stakeholders interviewed. Three scenarios were considered according to how long the Covid-19 pandemic lasts and the measures adopted to limit its spread. They cover three time horizons: (i) a short-term scenario, which covers the period when lockdown and quarantine measures were in place in Burkina Faso, i.e. a few months; (ii) a medium-term scenario, where the pandemic spans a single shea nut and shea butter production season from the date of the first confirmed case of Covid-19 in Burkina Faso; (iii) a long-term scenario, where the pandemic continues beyond a single shea nut and shea butter production season from the date of the first confirmed case of Covid-19 in Burkina Faso.

6.1 Short term

During the months of lockdown in Burkina Faso, the government introduced a CFAF 5 billion solidarity fund for workers in the informal sector, and for women in particular, as a support measure to help the economy recover. However, many women were not able to benefit from this support due to the "quite complex" eligibility criteria, which have imposed a barrier to accessing this fund.

Moreover, many women in the sector stopped working because they could not meet up to work in groups. The restrictions introduced on 23 March 2020 by decree and extended on 5 April, as well as the quarantine imposed on 27 March 2020 on towns that had recorded at least one case of Covid-19 have negatively impacted stakeholders in agricultural sectors, including the shea sector. In addition to measures prohibiting movements into and out of infected towns, the government introduced a curfew, which slowed down the distribution of shea butter and shea nuts, as well as shea processing activities. "Women are often forced to close the door and work inside to avoid being seen by the police patrols. And some employers have had to lay women off because they had no money left to pay them at the end of the month." This has led to a fall in the incomes of women working in the sector and to a consequent decline in their ability to meet all their financial obligations.

Story 11

"While it might be true that there’s support/assistance, it’s politicised. They know who’s working and who isn’t. But given everything they’ll ask of you in return for the support, you daren’t go. I wanted to apply, but I couldn’t; it’s not because we don’t have a project... Also, you worry that if you take the credit and you can’t get orders, when you have to pay back the loan, how would you do it?"

... Government measures are, in reality, more about looking good than taking action."

Source: 10/03/2021 at 10:52

73 Order No. 2020-021/PM/CAB of 23 March 2020 on temporary restrictions as part of special measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
76 Decree No. 2020-0215/PRES of 21 March 2020 on the introduction of a curfew (2 months).
77 Personal communication: 10/03/2021 at 10:52
Over this same period, contracts with partners were also suspended or withdrawn.

Other regulatory measures\textsuperscript{78} were also adopted to contain the spread and manage the effects of the pandemic (see Table 2).

The suspension of international trade fairs and the delays to the movement of goods and people caused by the pandemic and insecurity in the country have hindered development efforts and prevented the Burkinabé shea sector from breaking into international markets.

The pandemic has also affected the last two international shea conferences organized by the Global Shea Alliance (GSA) held on 6–8 April 2020 (13\textsuperscript{th} instalment) and 27–29 April 2021 (14\textsuperscript{th} instalment).\textsuperscript{79} The 2020 conference focused on sustainable development solutions for the sector and was attended by over 400 participants from 26 countries.\textsuperscript{80} The 2021 conference focused on the future of shea and the resilience of shea-producing communities, with over 500 (mostly online) participants from 52 countries. These conferences had to be organized online due to the Covid-19 prevention measures in place around the world.

In rural areas (villages), however, where the majority of women shea producers are based, the observed reality is that women’s daily routines have barely changed due to Covid-19, but have been influenced by insecurity in villages in areas at high risk of terrorist attacks.

6.2 Medium term

In the medium term, “people are turning to other temporary or stopgap activities; some are also retraining.”\textsuperscript{81} However, the current security and health risks, as well as the lack of working capital for farmers’ organizations, hamper harvesting, shared production and large-scale distribution activities. Limited access to markets due to the risk of towns being quarantined and borders staying shut significantly reduces women’s income (purchasing power), increasing the vulnerability of many. “The pandemic has pushed many women in the shea value chain into poverty.”\textsuperscript{82} “Fairs are no longer organized at the national or international level to promote the sector.”\textsuperscript{83} Despite all this, the pandemic has prompted local initiatives, innovation and investment.

6.3 Long term

If the pandemic and the insecurity last longer than a single agricultural season, they will have a negative impact on national production. Given that shea is the country’s fourth largest export, this would lead to a deterioration in the national economy due to a decrease\textsuperscript{84} in the inflows of foreign currency generated by shea exports.\textsuperscript{85}

\textbf{Story 12}

“I had a project with the AfDB [African Development Bank] and the World Bank on park certification (from the shea tree to the finished product). It was the last phase before disbursement and the pandemic broke out. They asked me to continue the project without being able to count on their funding. The studies had already been done with World Bank and AfDB funding; only the project implementation phase remained... This year the World Bank has come back and we’re in the process of selecting 30 communes for the launch. We’ve lost a whole year...”

Source: 10/03/2021 at 10:52


\textsuperscript{81} Personal communication: 19/05/2021 at 17:00

\textsuperscript{82} Personal communication, 08/03/2021 at 08:30

\textsuperscript{83} Personal communication: 10/03/2021 at 10:52

\textsuperscript{84} Fortunately, production areas are not heavily affected by terrorism.

Farmers’ organizations could lose credibility in the eyes of their trading partners. “Clients can understand it if farmers’ organizations struggle to deliver the volumes and the quality required in the first year, though this might already be causing issues in terms of contract renewal. But if they continue to be unable to fulfil the terms of the contract in subsequent years, partners might look for better partnerships elsewhere.”

Women producers will struggle to maintain and secure their share of the external market if the insecurity in Burkina Faso and the knock-on effects of Covid-19 prevention measures on the global economy continue. The ongoing development and large-scale roll out of Covid-19 vaccines will certainly help to gradually reduce the negative effects of measures to control the spread of the pandemic. However, it is likely that terrorism-related insecurity will have more lasting effects on women involved in the shea value chain in affected regions and, in turn, on other segments of the Burkinabe shea sector. Once the Covid-19 pandemic comes to an end, ultimately, the shea sector will have to comply with sustainability certification requirements.

86 Personal communication: 09/03/2021 at 11:00.

87 SHEA 2021 CONFERENCE: Demand Perspectives in the Era of COVID-19, 27 April 2021
This study examined insecurity, which has plagued Burkina Faso for several years, and the more recent Covid-19 pandemic as factors that compound vulnerability in the Burkinabe shea sector. It paid particular attention to women producers of shea nuts and shea butter, who are not only the majority among stakeholders in the sector (around 90%), but also the most vulnerable.

Our analysis of the information gathered found that insecurity has a more direct impact on women producers than the pandemic in regions of the country at high risk of insecurity. However, stakeholders at the shea processing and distribution stages are affected more by measures to control the spread of Covid-19 than by insecurity. The security crisis has hampered, if not eliminated, income-generating opportunities for women in shea nut collection and shea nut and shea butter production, pushing many women further into poverty. Covid-19 response measures have caused a slowdown in the processing and distribution of shea products, especially for export, due to the contraction of the global economy, which absorbs around 90% of Burkina Faso’s shea nuts. Despite the economic support measures adopted by the Burkinabe Government, the economic model of farmers’ organizations working in the shea sector has been weakened, further constricting their ability to honour commitments made to their business partners. Many of these farmers’ organizations could have a very low chance of survival if the global economy does not recover quickly from the effects of the pandemic. In this context, the challenge of maintaining the international reputation of Burkinabe shea products and stakeholders in the shea sector is even more acute. Beyond direct stakeholders in the shea sector itself, the entire national economy could be significantly affected, given that shea is the country’s fourth largest export.

Considering these findings, we would make the following recommendations:

**For direct stakeholders in the sector**
- Develop and promote shea products for local consumption;
- Focus on growing local and regional markets over global markets;
- Advocate for the introduction of a voluntary fixed-rate contribution in the shea sector to provide financial support to vulnerable stakeholders;
- Foster collective action rather than individualistic initiatives.

**For the Burkinabe Government**
- Effectively guarantee the security of goods and people and eradicate the scourge of insecurity in the country;
- Implement a compulsory fixed-rate contribution in the shea sector to strengthen the financial capacity of organizations involved in the sector over the long term;
- Support initiatives by national stakeholders to add value to shea products locally, for example, through the installation of a fractional distillation unit for processing shea butter, as part of a public-private partnership;
- Build capacity at quality control facilities for shea products to comply with international standards.

**For credit institutions**
- Improve the conditions and costs of access to credit for women shea nut and shea butter producers.
For research bodies

• Develop an ambitious and coherent research programme addressing the major challenges faced by stakeholders in the shea sector, from resource sustainability to shea processing and product distribution.

Implementing these recommendations would help to reduce the vulnerability of women shea nut and shea butter producers, and the entire shea sector more generally, to the many risks and shocks they face, including the recent dual security and health crisis. It will require the ongoing commitment of all stakeholders working together in coordination to improve their effectiveness and efficiency.

SHEA 2021 CONFERENCE: Demand Perspectives in the Era of COVID-19; April 27, 2021 ;

Websites consulted
- https://www.jeuneafrique.com, « Burkina Faso–Lassané Kaboré : Malgré les difficultés, notre économie est résiliente » ; Consulté le 04/05/2021 ;
- https://www.aa.com.tr/fr/afrique, « Burkina Faso : les déplacements internes augmentent de plus de 90% » ; consulté le 30/04/2021 ;
- https://reliefweb.int, « La situation sécuritaire demeure préoccupante dans les communes frontalières du nord » Publié en janvier 2021 ; consulté le 30/04/2021 ;
- https://www.afdb.org, « La filière du karité majoritairement féminine réalise plus de 60 millions de dollars d’exportations » ; consulté le 04/05/2021.
Annex 1. Guide adapted from the COVID-19 questionnaire developed by the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) Kenya

Questionnaire on shea supply chains (SC) in Burkina Faso impacted by insecurity and the COVID-19 pandemic

Date……………………………....

Place…………………………….

Name of respondent/ Tel number ……………………………………………………………

Gender of respondent: 1. Male 2. Female

Age of SC actor ………………Years

1. Role in shea supply chain (Multiple responses accepted)
   a. Shea producer
   b. Shea association
   c. Government
   d. Wholesaler
   e. Transporter
   f. TNC or other buyer
   g. NGO or service provider
   i. Research organization

2. Location(s) of operation (forest/land; shop/yard; route etc) and Province and Town/Village
   i. …………………………………………………………………………………
   ii. …………………………………………………………………………………

A. Government

3. Any changes in the regulatory framework and/or fiscal regimes due to either a. insecurity and/or b. restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic? Y/N
4. Explain in terms of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspects of change</th>
<th>Y/N</th>
<th>What changes</th>
<th>Why the change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laws and regulations governing the production of shea</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal regime for shea producers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal regime for TNCs, wholesalers and other buyers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shea standards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport regulations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health regulations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to local, regional and global markets (such as the introduction of export tariffs)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other change</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Women shea producers, their associations and federated structures

5. Any changes in collection, production/transformation and sale of shea nuts and/or shea butter due to either a. insecurity and/or b. restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic? Y/N

6. Explain in terms of any of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspects of change</th>
<th>Y/N</th>
<th>What changes</th>
<th>Why the change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount produced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location of shea collection site</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processing time and frequency</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of labour (collection, transport and processing)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to local, regional and global markets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of buyers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volumes sold</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selling price</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other change</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C. Wholesalers and transporters

7. Any changes to your business due to either a. insecurity and/or b. restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic? Y/N:

8. Explain in terms of any of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspects of change</th>
<th>Y/N</th>
<th>What changes</th>
<th>Why the change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to and from local periodic markets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliability of supplies in local periodic markets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of shea nuts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts you can purchase</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Buying price</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of sales</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road checkpoints</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales to intermediaries or TNCs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Selling price</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. Trans-National Corporations and other buyers

9. Any changes to the volume or quality of your shea nut and/or shea butter purchases due to either a. insecurity and/or b. restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic? Y/N

10. Explain in terms of any of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspects changes</th>
<th>Y/N</th>
<th>What changes</th>
<th>Why the change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Availability of shea nuts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of shea butter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability from preferred supplier(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prices per unit that you buy: Shea nuts ; Shea butter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrictions on transport within the country</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrictions on transport outside the country</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tariffs, if any, on shea nuts and/or shea butter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
E. NGOs and other service provider’s inc. research organizations

9. Any changes in the organization of shea supply chains or support services to women shea producers due to either a. insecurity and/or b. restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic? Y/N

10. Explain in terms of any of these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspects of change</th>
<th>Y/N</th>
<th>What changes</th>
<th>Why the change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical access to women shea producers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual access to women shea producers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Training courses provided</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to credit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport within the country</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintaining quality standards par ex. through certification</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to information and research findings by women’s shea producers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

F. All Supply chain actors:

11. Any changes in the enforcement of laws and regulations associated with shea supply chains? Y/N

12. In what ways ........................................................................................................

............................................................................................................................

13. Any changes in compliance mechanisms? Y/N

14. In what ways ........................................................................................................

............................................................................................................................

15. Any there any specific challenges that you are facing due to either insecurity and/or the COVID-19 pandemic? Y/N
16. What are the **3 key challenges** you face due to insecurity and/or COVID-19 and how are you adapting/coping.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific challenges faced due to insecurity</th>
<th>Coping mechanisms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific challenges faced due to COVID-19</th>
<th>Coping mechanisms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Semi-structured interview about shea supply chains in Burkina Faso due to the current insecurity situation and COVID-19 pandemic

**Topics for discussion**
- Types of restrictions due to a. insecurity and b. COVID-19
- Changes for main actors (economic, social and environmental)
- Particular impacts for value chain actors and households depending on shea, particularly women shea producers?
- Are these impacts linked to direct health effects (affecting production and productivity), to consequences of transport disruption or other containment measures introduced at the national level, to disruption of local, regional and international trade, higher transport costs…
- Changes regarding access to collect, and transport shea nuts (more or less, areas)
- Changes regarding production and processing (volumes)
- Changes regarding transportation and transportation routes
- Changes regarding controls, fees and taxation
- Changes regarding prices
- Changes regarding demand in local, regional (par ex. cross-border trade with northern Ghana) and global markets
- What are the factors that seem to have increased the impacts, or on the contrary, to reduce them (inside and outside the shea sector)?
- What remedial actions have been taken by the different actors?
- Have there been specific public actions to support actors?

**Analysis of potential medium-long term effects of the crisis**
- What could be the medium to long-term effects of the crisis (organization of supply chains, technological developments including new standards, changes in local, regional and/or global markets due to COVID-19 and/or new tariff-free legislation, changes in the composition of key actor groups, actors, and the role of Small and Medium Enterprises vis a vis large TNCs, social effects including on gender, and any positive environmental impacts)?
- To what extent are actors aware of the risks? What do they do to accompany or address them?
- What could/should be done about it?
Annex 2. Stainless steel equipment at a semi-industrial shea nut processing unit
Annex 3. List of interviewees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Full name</th>
<th>Body</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bastide Brigitte</td>
<td>Institute for the Environment and Agricultural Research (INERA)/Environment and Forests Department (DEF)</td>
<td>Senior Research Fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bationo Babou André</td>
<td>INERA</td>
<td>Senior Research Fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Boundi Djibril</td>
<td>Agence pour la Promotion des Exportations (Export Promotion Agency – APEX)</td>
<td>Technical Advisor/Acting Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cissé Oumar</td>
<td>Réseau des Productrices de Beurre de karité des Hauts-Bassins et Cascades (Network of Women Shea Butter Producers of Hauts-Bassins and Cascades)</td>
<td>Programme Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Fofana Seydou</td>
<td>Agence de Courtage de Commerce et de Services (Trade and Services Brokerage Agency)</td>
<td>Managing Director of the Agency / First President of Table Filière Karité (Shea Sector Round Table – TFK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ganaba Souleymane</td>
<td>Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)</td>
<td>Project coordinator for women’s adaptation to climate change in shea parks in Burkina Faso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ganou Cyrille</td>
<td>Institute for Research in Applied Sciences and Technology (IRSAT)</td>
<td>Head of Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Ganou Leguet</td>
<td>IRSAT</td>
<td>Chef de Département</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Guebré Serge</td>
<td>OLVEA</td>
<td>Head of plant sectors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Kaboré Irène</td>
<td>CECI</td>
<td>Programme Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Kabore/Zeba Fanny</td>
<td>REKAF/B</td>
<td>CEO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Kanté/Traoré Hyacinte</td>
<td>IRSAT</td>
<td>Research Associate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Kiema S. Wilfreid</td>
<td>Burkinabe Standards, Metrology and Quality Agency (ABNORM)</td>
<td>Head of the Documentation Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Koala Jacques</td>
<td>Permanent Secretariat of the National Council to Promote Gender (SP/CONAPGENRE)</td>
<td>Head of Department for Institutional Support and Capacity Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Konaté Moumouni</td>
<td>SPH</td>
<td>President of the National Association of Shea Product Processors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Kouka Kaboré</td>
<td>Group For Research and Technology Exchanges (GRET)</td>
<td>Head of value chains (cowpea, non-timber forest products, milk) and monitoring and evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Nana /Tapsoba Alizèta</td>
<td>Liza Export</td>
<td>CEO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Savadogo Ragnimwendé</td>
<td>Shea Butter Producers and Processors Cooperative/Manga</td>
<td>CEO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Full name</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>Position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Sawadogo Issouf</td>
<td>Ministry of the Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change (MEEVCC)</td>
<td>Head of NTFP Production Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Sawadogo Louis</td>
<td>ANVAR</td>
<td>Managing Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Semdé Zenabou</td>
<td>IRSAT</td>
<td>Researcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Sodré Souleyman Pierre</td>
<td>EIF</td>
<td>National Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Somda Aubin</td>
<td>Cabinet d’ingénierie et de conseil en développement d’entreprises (Engineering and Consulting in Business Development – ICDE)</td>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Somé Paul</td>
<td>Directorate General of Sectoral Studies and Statistics – MCIA</td>
<td>Head of the Department for the Coordination of National Frameworks and other policies and strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Tagnan Abou Dradin</td>
<td>L’Occitane</td>
<td>Technical Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Tiendrébéogo Désiré</td>
<td>SP/CONAGENRE</td>
<td>Head of the Institutional Support and Capacity Building Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Yaméogo félicité</td>
<td>New-Karitis</td>
<td>CEO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Yamwemba Maxime</td>
<td>APEX</td>
<td>Head of Trade Missions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Zieba Boukary</td>
<td>Karilor</td>
<td>Secretary General of TFK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Zongo/Béréhoudougou Monique</td>
<td>Teegwende Bao Manegre Association</td>
<td>CEO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Burkina Faso is currently facing a security crisis linked to recurrent terrorist attacks, while also dealing with the global COVID-19 pandemic. This study aims to better identify and address the vulnerabilities affecting stakeholders in the shea sector in this context. The findings show that the measures adopted by states to slow the spread of COVID-19 have impacted the sector and have led, among other things, to a slowdown in shea processing and distribution, the suspension or termination of commercial contracts, working hours being cut, a drop in the quality of shea nuts and shea butter, the inability of many stakeholders to honour commercial contracts and the growing instability of the economic model of shea producer organizations.

While COVID-19 directly impacts the processing and distribution stages of the supply chain, it is women at the production stage who are most vulnerable to insecurity. Forced to stop collecting shea nuts by this life-threatening situation, women have been deprived of a substantial source of household income. They are also affected by the knock-on effects of COVID-19 on processing and distribution, making them all the more vulnerable.

Strengthening the resilience of the sector to the dual shocks caused by the security and health crises will only be possible if all stakeholders work together and coordinate their activities. This study summarizes its findings as recommendations.