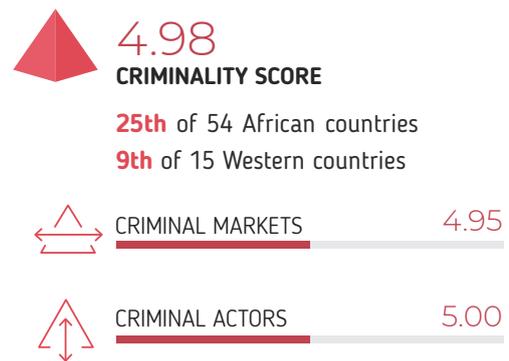
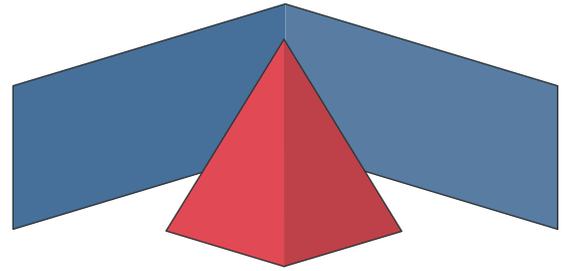


 **BURKINA FASO**

Burkina Faso is ranked 25th in the Index, with moderately high scores for all **criminal markets**, ranging from 3.5 to 7 and a broad range of moderately influential **criminal actors**.

There are no major illicit narcotics markets, although growing consumption of **synthetic drugs** was noted as a concern by experts. Burkina Faso also faces issues of criminal activity in the environmental markets, but the market for **non-renewable resources**, notably gold, was the only one deemed as exerting a significant negative influence on society. **Human smuggling, human trafficking** and **arms trafficking** were all deemed to be of similar pervasiveness, scoring between 5 and 6. Burkina Faso has a broad range of **criminal actors**, all of which are established but without exerting very significant influence, as highlighted by their scores, which range from 4 to 6.5.

In terms of **resilience**, Burkina Faso scores moderately, ranking 26th in Africa with a score of 3.88. The new government appears to be proactive in its stance against organised crime, but its ability to make impactful change is hampered by insufficient funding, some state involvement in criminal markets, and functional deficiencies within its institutions.



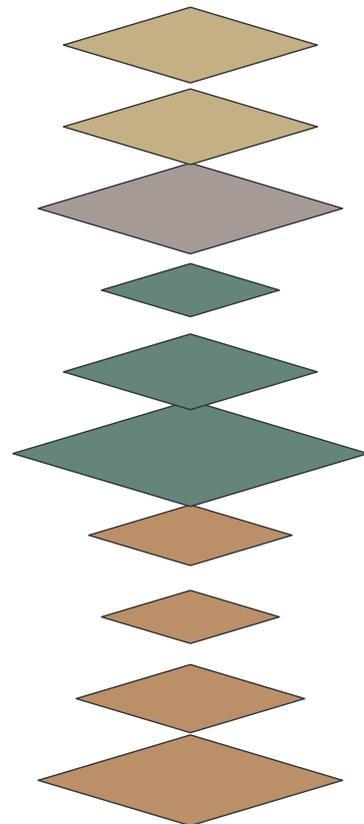
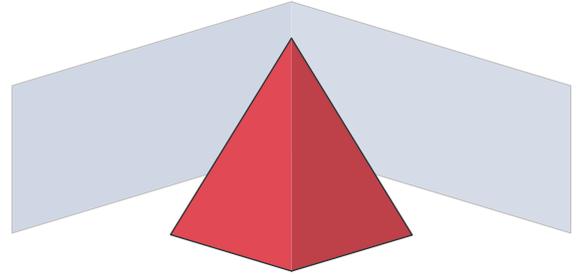
CRIMINALITY SCORE



CRIMINAL ACTORS	5.00
MAFIA STYLE GROUPS	4.5
CRIMINAL NETWORKS	5.0
STATE-EMBEDDED ACTORS	6.5
FOREIGN ACTORS	4.0



CRIMINAL MARKETS	4.95
HUMAN TRAFFICKING	5.0
HUMAN SMUGGLING	5.0
ARMS TRAFFICKING	6.0
FLORA CRIMES	3.5
FAUNA CRIMES	5.0
NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES CRIMES	7.0
HEROIN TRADE	4.0
COCAINE TRADE	3.5
CANNABIS TRADE	4.5
SYNTHETIC DRUGS TRADE	6.0



Criminal Markets

Burkina Faso has a range of moderately pervasive **criminal markets**, but there is a notable absence of any criminal markets that have a significant or severe influence in the country. The most pervasive is the illicit market for **non-renewable resources**, which scores 7 in the Index. The country is a major gold-producing state, and significant criminal activity surrounding the industry is present. While the National Institute of Statistics and Demography reported a total production of 9.5 tonnes of gold, analysis

of atmospheric mercury emissions suggest the actual production is approximately 20 to 25 tonnes. This large difference between the two figures suggests high levels of illicit production of gold in the country. Insecurity in the areas near mines is increasing and a considerable number of people are involved in, and affected by, this illicit economy, including criminal networks and entrepreneurs, state-embedded criminal actors, foreign criminal actors and the miners themselves. Nevertheless, the gold



industry is more regulated nowadays than in the past, which has led to a decrease in trafficking flows.

Burkina Faso has long been a country of arms transit amid the conflicts in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire and Mali. Since the end of the former regime of President Compaoré in 2014, and especially from 2018 onwards, small arms and light weapons have been circulating, and are used by criminal networks to attack law-enforcement agencies and civilians. These arms have also been used during inter-ethnic and inter-community tensions since the beginning of 2018, most notably in Liptako Gourma, a region that overlaps Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. The conflicts in the three countries have contributed to illicit arms flows in the region.

The trafficking and abuse of Tramadol in Burkina Faso is growing rapidly. The **synthetic drug** is affordable across most of the country and therefore feeds a far larger latent market than many other synthetic drugs. Annual seizures of amphetamines are substantial, indicating their prominence in Burkina Faso. However, these drugs are more expensive, so demand is driven largely by tourists, expatriate residents or wealthy nationals.

Human trafficking and **human smuggling** both record scores of 5 in the Index. Forced labour, forced begging and sexual exploitation have all been documented as problems in Burkina Faso. Though trafficking affects all categories of people, the trafficking of children is most significant in the country. Child begging in particular tends to be more organised. The families of the children are often complicit in child labour, as traffickers promise them educational opportunities, but instead force children to work as farm hands, gold panners and washers in artisanal mines, street vendors and domestic servants. Nevertheless, in terms of the absolute number of people living in modern slavery, Burkina Faso is affected to a lesser degree than many other African countries.

Due to high unemployment rates, droughts and difficult living conditions in general, many people, the youth segment of the population in particular, leave Burkina Faso in search of a better life. Many take advantage of free movement within the ECOWAS region, so the criminally organised **smuggling of migrants** in this area is not required. However, in the past few years, citizens of Burkina Faso have been exploiting the burgeoning northwards smuggling routes towards Libya and the Mediterranean routes to Europe – though those who do seek the services of smugglers for onward travel to North Africa or Europe tend to only start engaging with smugglers in neighbouring Mali or Niger.

Criminal Actors

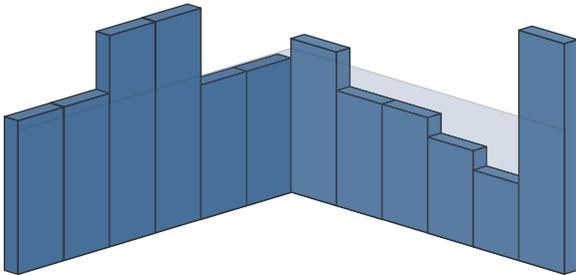
Burkina Faso's score for **criminal actors** reflects similar dynamics to its **criminal markets**, in that there are a range of actors with notable influence in organised crime in the country, but none of which dominate the organised-crime landscape. As is the case in many Central and West African nations, but somewhat of an anomaly throughout the rest of Africa, **mafia-style groups** are active in Burkina Faso. These groups are traditionally known as terrorist organisations, but although these groups do receive support from regional and international jihadist groups, they are also involved in organised-criminal activities to fund their operations and have been known to exploit local criminal networks. Such activities include drug trafficking and the smuggling of counterfeited products, including cigarettes and pharmaceutical drugs. There is also increasing evidence that jihadist groups in the north-eastern and eastern parts of Burkina Faso are becoming directly involved in illicit gold mining, in areas where they have forced out the government.

The strongest criminal actor-type operating in Burkina Faso, however, is **state-embedded actors**. While in past decades, such actors involved with jihadist groups have been in decline, security forces and government elites are believed to be directly implicated in facilitating illicit flows of narcotics through the country, as well as other contraband, including fuel and cigarettes. Furthermore, corruption and embezzlement are common in the country.

Criminal networks have a moderate influence on society and are linked to numerous illicit economies, including illegal gold mining, narcotics trafficking, smuggling, contraband sales, endangered animal species trafficking and money laundering. While **foreign actors** receive the lowest score of the four criminal actor-types, they are still assessed to have a moderate influence on society. Criminal actors from neighbouring countries and parts of South America have been reported to have links to local actors, who are considered the main criminal actors in Burkina Faso. Terrorist groups, including Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin, which is affiliated with al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and the Ansar ul Islam, also play an important role in providing support to their Burkinabé counterparts.



RESILIENCE SCORE



POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE	4.0
GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY	4.0
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	5.5
NATIONAL POLICIES AND LAWS	5.5
JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND DETENTION	3.5
LAW ENFORCEMENT	3.5
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY	4.0
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING	3.0
ECONOMIC REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT	3.0
VICTIM AND WITNESS SUPPORT	2.5
PREVENTION	2.0
NON-STATE ACTORS	6.0

Burkina Faso ranks average in the continent with regard to **resilience**, at 26th in Africa, with scores from 2 to 6. In the past, there was little to no appreciable political will to address organised crime in Burkina Faso. Since 2015, however, the new government has taken some positive steps towards addressing the systemic corruption that had undermined previous efforts. However, the legacy of the old regime persists, and the existing state structures struggle to deliver the most basic public services, with functional deficiencies and lack of capacity in many areas. While the government has yet to achieve any far-reaching efforts to investigate and sanction economic and political crimes, it is making significant efforts to do so. The adoption of new anti-corruption legislation in 2015 was a step forward, but it is important to note that the legislation was introduced largely as a result of the immense pressure put on the government by civil society and the general public, rather than a sincere willingness to reform.

Experts assessed **international cooperation** to be one of Burkina Faso's greatest strengths, due to the state's close cooperation with numerous international organisations, including the UNODC, UN, GIZ, INTERPOL, EU and ECOWAS, as well as with foreign governments, in several sponsored programmes to fight organised crime and terrorism. Burkina Faso has also ratified all 10 of the relevant international treaties and conventions pertaining to organised crime. Furthermore, unlike many countries, Burkina Faso has made a concerted effort to integrate these treaties into its **national legislative**

framework. The country has numerous laws pertaining to both organised crime generally and specific illicit markets, and rule of law in Burkina Faso is more robust than in many other African states.

It is clear, however, that where Burkina Faso is falling short is in the implementation and enforcement of existing legislation. Indeed, the country's scores for its **judicial system and detention** and **law enforcement** fall below the continental averages, both scoring 3.5. With the growing threat of terrorism in the country (spilling over from the Sahel-based Islamist extremist movements), judicial instruments are being developed. The judicial system accepts the technical support of international donors to strengthen and build capacity in this area, as well as broader support to the criminal-justice system. However, efforts are still needed to strengthen the system, and improvements around more effective structures in the field of investigation, prosecution and adjudication of organised crime and terrorism cases are required.

Burkina Faso also struggles with regard to the economic and financial-related measures of resilience to organised crime. Basic **anti-money laundering** laws and structures do exist, but their effective enforcement remains a challenge, both due to the weak capacity of the country's financial intelligence unit and the large informal economy. This is in part due to complicity of state actors, but it is also a function of the nature of the Burkinabé economy, which operates largely in cash and because a significant segment of the economy is informal. However, the government has



recently developed a so-called National Plan for Economic and Social Development for the period of 2016 to 2020, focusing on the structural transformation of the country's economy and the welfare of its people. This initiative may reduce incentives to engage in criminal activities. Illicit outflows and inadequate regulation of the gold sector, among others, are also key weakness in Burkina Faso.

Serious deficiencies have been noted in Burkina Faso regarding the social protection measure, or lack thereof, provided by the government. For example, the country does not have a witness protection scheme. However, significant measures have been initiated in the field of trafficking in human beings. The government has increased efforts to identify trafficking victims and opened a 24-hour operational shelter in Ouagadougou, where food, clothing, health care and legal assistance, with the support of NGOs and international organisations, are provided. Despite this, long-term care for victims remains inadequate. The government acknowledges victim services are insufficient, and service providers lack the funding and resources to support victim protection, rehabilitation and reintegration, which results in many victims being subjected to re-trafficking.

The strongest area of Burkina Faso's resilience to organised crime is the strength of **non-state actors** in the country, scoring 6, considerably higher than the continental average. Burkina Faso has strong civil-society traditions, at least by sub-Saharan standards. Numerous organisations and associations, which partially have their roots in pre-colonial society, constitute one of the key strengths of the country's civil society. These organisations include 'groupements villageois' (village groups) and other community-based associations, which were originally self-help groups or traditional warrior associations. Trade unions, student unions, human-rights groups and a wide spectrum of literacy, environmental and women's advocacy groups, such as trade and professional organisations, are vital to civil society in Burkina Faso. Nevertheless, the media environment in the country needs significant improvement. Although there is a professional, dynamic media presence in the country, journalists still face considerable pressure from the government, particularly in the form of defamation cases.

