

your reference in leadership and management

BASELINE STUDY

POLITICAL TRANSITION
IN BURKINA FASO





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HISTORY

KEY EVENTS BEFORE THE CURRENT TRANSITION

- ✦ **07 November 1982:** Military coup against Colonel Zaye Zerbo, head of the Voltaic State since November 1980.
- ✦ **17 May 1983:** Arrest of Thomas Sankara, Prime Minister
- ✦ **27 May 1983:** Announcement of the installation of a transitional regime and immediate return of the military to their barracks.
- ✦ **04 August 1983:** Overthrow of Commander Ouedraogo by former Prime Minister Thomas Sankara.
- ✦ **24 August 1983:** Establishment of a new government with a civilian majority.
- ✦ **04 August 1984:** Upper Volta becomes Burkina Faso.
- ✦ **15 October 1987:** Putsch and death of Commander Thomas Sankara.
- ✦ **18 September 1989:** Attempted coup against the incumbent president Blaise Compaoré.
- ✦ **1er December 1991:** Presidential election organised in a turbulent atmosphere with Compaoré as the only candidate and a high rate of abstention from voting.
- ✦ **15 November 1998:** Compaoré's re-election and a ballot boycotted by his main opponents who cite the lack of independent electoral control.
- ✦ **13 November 2005:** Re-election of Compaoré with the opposition participating in the elections for the first time since 1991.
- ✦ **21 November 2010:** Compaoré is re-elected for his last term but raises the possibility of reforming the constitution in order to run in the next elections.
- ✦ **31 October 2014:** Announcement of the vacancy by President Compaoré and establishment of a transition.
- ✦ **1er November 2014:** Establishment of the transitional institutions with the diplomat Michel Kafando at the head of the transitional presidency.
- ✦ **16 - 23 September 2015:** Attempted coup d'état with the aim of ending the transitional government installed in 2014.

KEY EVENTS IN THE CURRENT TRANSITION

- ✦ **22 November 2020:** Re-election of the candidate of the People's Movement for Progress (MPP), Roch Marc Christian Kaboré as head of government.
- ✦ **14 November 2021:** Jihadist offensive in the north of the country, Inata (53 gendarmes, 4 civilians killed)
- ✦ **21 November 2021:** Jihadist attack in the north of the country, Foubé (9 gendarmes, a dozen civilians killed). Advanced health post (AHP) supported by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) burnt down in Foubé.
- ✦ **08 December 2021:** Sacking of PM Christophe Dabiré. Resignation from the government
- ✦ **10 December 2021:** Appointment of Lassina Zerbo as PM
- ✦ **10 January 2022:** Attempted coup d'état

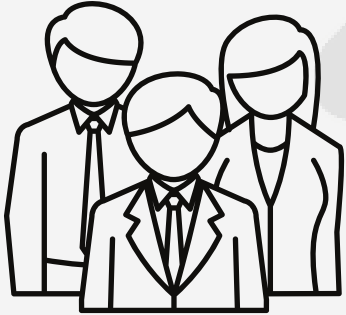
Arrest of Lieutenant-Colonel Emmanuel Zoungrana and 7 soldiers

- ✦ **22 January 2022:** Demonstrations in several cities across the country against the government's incompetence in dealing with the security crisis
- ✦ **23 January 2022:** Mutiny of soldiers in several barracks
- ✦ **24 January 2022:** Arrest of Roch MC Kaboré, the president of the national assembly, and ministers by the military (Military coup and seizure of power by the Patriotic Movement for - Safeguard and Restoration (MPSR)
 - Dissolution of the National Assembly and the government
 - Suspension of the constitution
 - Closing the borders
 - Introduction of curfew
 - Lieutenant-Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba takes power
- ✦ **31 January 22:** Restoration of the constitution
- ✦ **16 February 22:** Lieutenant-Colonel Damiba becomes Head of State

KEY PLAYERS

1982 Transition

- Military Committee for National Progress (CMRPN)
- Thomas Sankara
- Commander Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo
- The junta



1983 Transition

- Council for the Salvation of the People (CSP) with Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo
- Thomas Sankara, Prime Minister
- The National Council of the Revolution (CNR)



1987 Transition

- Captain Blaise Compaoré
- The armed forces of Burkina Faso
- The Liberian National Patriotic Party
- The Committee for the Defence of the Revolution
- Supported by many states: Libya, Mali, Ivory Coast, France



2014 Transition

- General Honoré Traoré
- Lieutenant Colonel Isaac Yacouba Zida
- The Presidents of Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal
- Presidential Security Regiment (R.S.P.)



2022 Transition

- The Patriotic Movement for Safeguarding and Restoration (MPSR)
- Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President in office
- Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, military leader of the MPSR
- Lassina Zerbo, Prime Minister before the putsch

INTERESTS, OBJECTIVES AND KEY CLAIMS

In
1982
and
1983

- Ending the conflict of interest in the Military Committee for National Progress (MCNP)
- Putting the focus back on the security problems facing the country
- Reorganisation of the army
- Establish a government with civilians in the majority at the helm.
- The promise of respect for Burkina Faso's international commitments

In
1987

- Putting relations with highly deteriorated neighbouring countries back on track
- Restoring the spirit of the revolution established since 1983
- Restoring the crisis economy by providing the necessary funds
- Reverse all so-called 'non-progressive' policies

In
2014

- In 1991: Opposition parties boycott elections and call for a national conference
- In 2008: Demonstration of people against the high cost of living in the country
- October 2014: Demonstration against Compaoré's plan to seek a 5ème term by amending the constitution
- Establish a transitional government that will ensure the transition until the next election

In
2022

- To limit the insecurity created by the increase in jihadist attacks and bombings in the country since 2016
- November 2021: Demonstrations against the supply of food to the military and the government's inability to repel jihadists and provide security for the people
- Restore the constitution and adopt a transitional charter

ROADMAPS OF THE DIFFERENT TRANSITIONS

1 ←

TRANSITION BETWEEN 1982 AND 1987

- Establishment of a policy of rectification of the revolution
- Respect the international agreements signed by the current Upper Volta Burkina
- Support all national liberation movements
- Promoting the transfer of power into civilian hands

→ 2

TRANSITION OF 2014

- Organise elections to end the transition
- Restore and strengthen social cohesion and national unity
- Take rapid measures for social appeasement, with a strong focus on young people and the poorest regions of the country
- Organising and developing a defence and security strategy .

3 ←

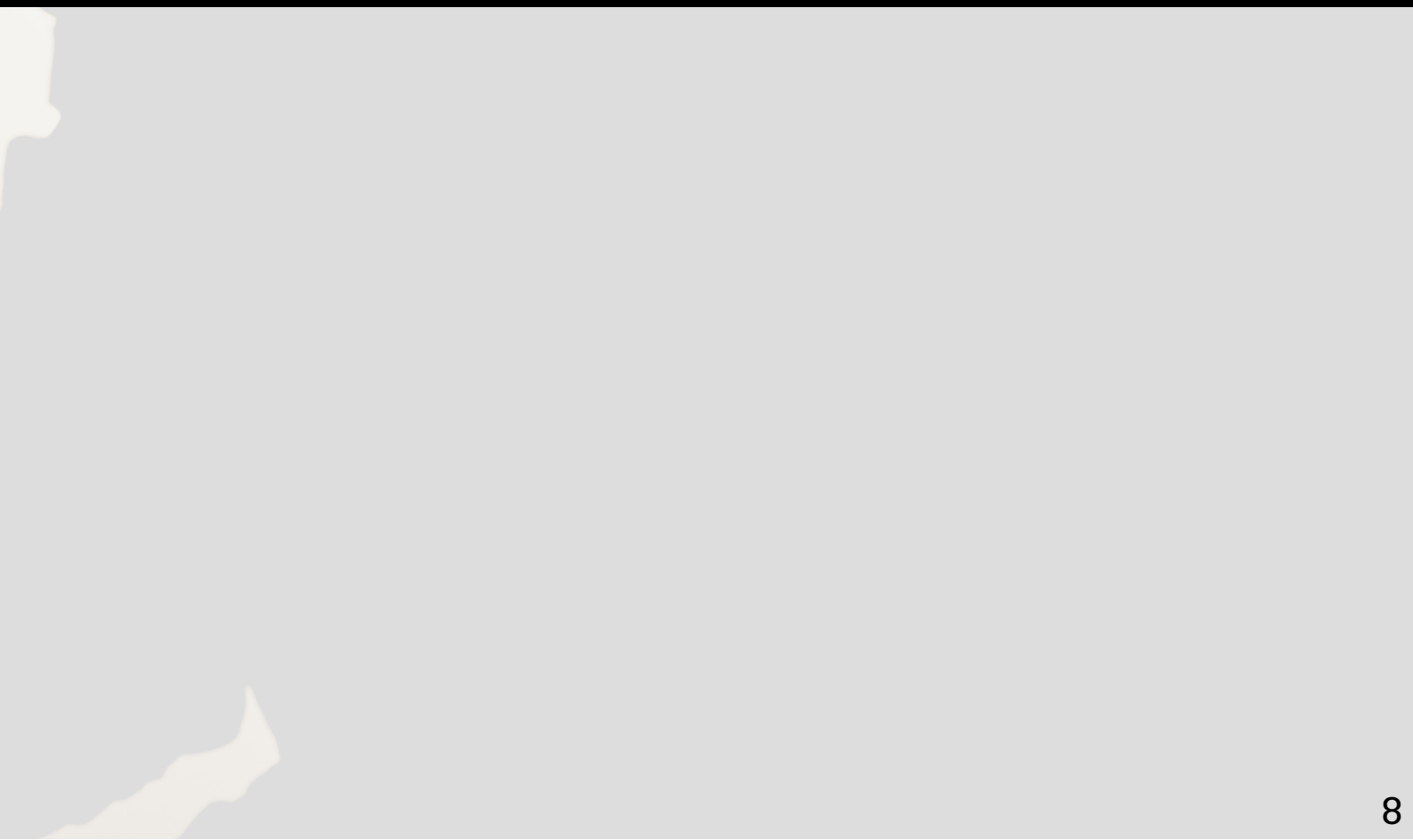
TRANSITION OF 2022

- Fighting terrorism and restoring territorial integrity ;
- Responding to the humanitarian crisis ;
- Refounding the state and improving governance and finally,
- Work towards national reconciliation and social cohesion.



ONGOING TRANSITION

From 22 November 2021 to this day



INTERVENTION BY REGIONAL BODIES



ECOWAS

- Mediates between the military and civilians
 - Call for a ceasefire and start negotiations with the jihadist camp for a gradual return to peace
 - Forcing the military to hand over power to civilians by imposing sanctions such as removing the country from the membership of the organisation
 - Participates in the reconstruction process of Burkina Faso on the economic and humanitarian level
-



African Union (AU)

- Facilitate the signing of peace agreements between civilians and the military and ensure that they are respected
 - Condemnation of the putsch's through the application of sanctions
 - Call for the transfer of full powers to the civil party
 - Seek international assistance to improve the country's security climate
-

POSITIONS AND INTERVENTION OF NON-AFRICAN ACTORS



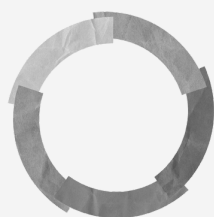
**International
Community**

The international community condemned the coup



European Union

EU supports transition for a rapid return to constitutional order



**Organisation
internationale de la
francophonie (OIF)**

The International Organisation of the Francophonie (OIF) suspended the BF from its bodies



United Nations

The UN SG expressed concern about the impact of the deteriorating political and security situation in the Sahel on the operationalisation of the G5



Refugees International

A Refugees International team visited BF to determine the effectiveness and needs of humanitarian responses

BALANCE SHEET

Challenges

- Persistent insecurity due to recurrent jihadist attacks
- Food insecurity directly linked to insecurity
- Finding an agreement between the military and civilians
- coups and attempted coups that have further weakened the country's political climate
- The birth of conspiracy theories within the Burkinabe army

Success stories

- The release of former President Kaboré
- The junta's insistence on the principle of non-eligibility of members of the transitional government
- Determining the transition period (36 months)



CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS FOR THE TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITIES

- Establishing the rule of law through respect for human rights and integrity
- Review the different modalities in the choice of transitional leaders
- Strengthening local governance for regional development
- Building consensus as a prerequisite for constitutional review
- Enable citizens to bring cases before the Constitutional Council, the Military Tribunal and the High Court of Justice



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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