HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REPORT

BURKINA FASO

Public Investment Management Assessment – PIMA and Climate-PIMA

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Burkina Faso: Public Investment Management Assessment (PIMA) and Climate-PIMA
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The *High-Level Summary Technical Assistance Report* series provides high-level summaries of the assistance provided to IMF capacity development recipients, describing the high-level objectives, findings, and recommendations.

ABSTRACT: An IMF team found that, compared to the 2017 PIMA results, Burkina Faso has made progress in improving its public investment management system, but this is still insufficient to strengthen PIM efficiency. The assessment conducted during this mission shows an encouraging improvement in PIM practices in Burkina Faso, in terms of both the legal framework and implementation effectiveness. However, there is still a gap between the evolved institutional design and its actual implementation, which is often less satisfactory. Regarding climate aspects, some good practices are beginning to emerge, particularly in planning and risk management. The team has identified nine high-priority recommendations to improve PIM processes and support the Government of Burkina Faso in effectively implementing its investment policy and development agenda, including increasing resilience against climate change.

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Background

In response to a request from the Burkinabè authorities, a team from the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD) undertook a hybrid mission to take stock of progress since the 2017 since the 2017 public investment management assessment (assessment (PIMA), and assessed the integration of climate aspects into public investment management practices (PIM)through the Climate PIMA module (C-PIMA). The mission took place virtually from 7 to 15 April 2025 and in Ouagadougou from 16 to 23 May 2025.

Summary of Findings

The level of public investment in Burkina Faso has increased in recent years, but its impact on infrastructure and service delivery underscores persistent challenges in translating financial outlays into durable development outcomes. Over the last two decades, the level of public investment in Burkina Faso remained subdued, averaging 6 percent of GDP**.** Since 2021, investment expenditure has risen considerably, reaching levels higher than the average for WAEMU countries and Sub-Saharan Africa. However, this increase has not led to a significant improvement in infrastructure access indicators, and the public capital stock has declined notably compared to peer countries. Burkina Faso has levels of access to basic social services that are significantly below regional and international averages. This highlights the need to enhance the efficiency of investment spending, as the financial flows committed have not resulted in the creation of durable assets, thereby limiting their real impact on development.

Compared to the 2017 PIMA, progress has been made in strengthening the institutional framework for PIM but the practice on the ground still remains insufficient. The evaluation showed significant improvements in PIM framework, including the adoption of the PIM decree, the public-private partnership (PPP) legal framework, and project appraisal guidelines. However, a notable gap remains between the institutional design and its implementation. Key strengths include the establishment of fiscal rules, better coordination among entities, multi-year budgeting, and asset monitoring. Challenges persist in maintenance funding, project selection, funding availability, and project management. The integration of climate change into PIM is still limited, although some emerging practices are being developed in the planning phase.

The impact of climate change is particularly critical for the agricultural sector, given its central role in Burkina Faso's economy and society. Burkina Faso's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions is low, but its heavy dependence on traditional biomass and imported fossil fuels underscores the urgency of a transition to low-carbon energy. To address the impacts of climate change, the government of Burkina Faso has developed a comprehensive climate change strategy, which is reflected in several national policy frameworks and planning documents.

While some good practices are beginning to emerge, Burkina Faso's international commitments are gradually starting to be reflected in PIM practices. Emerging good practices include the beginnings of climate consideration in the National Plan for Economic and Social Development (PNDES), Action Plan for Stabilization and Development (PA-SD) and some sectoral strategies, planning rules and construction guidelines, the identification and tracking of climate-related expenditure in the budget, ex-ante financing of climate-related damage, and climate-related risk analysis. The main weaknesses lie in the lack of centralized technical support available to public administrations for the preparation and costing of public investment strategies incorporating climate considerations, the absence of methodologies for assessing climate impacts and risks on infrastructure, and the related lack of selection criteria. The lack of consideration for climate change in asset maintenance and management policies also remains a major handicap.

Summary of Recommendations

The PIMA team has identified nine high-priority recommendations that could improve PIM processes:

- Improve investment planning and integrate climate-related aspects, by including a priority list of projects in the national development plan, which will facilitate project prioritization.
- Refocus the public investment process on a formal “project-based” approach, to improve the effectiveness of project appraisal. In this context, it is recommended that the relevant investment budget lines be established as projects and be considered in existing regulations.
- Strengthen the programming, budgeting, and transparency of public investments, and ensure that project’s total cost is included in the budget documentation and reflected in the public investment program (PIP) document.
- Ensure the sustainability of public investment, taking climate aspects into account.
- Enhance fiscal risks monitoring, including those related to climate.
- Clarify the criteria for prioritizing public investment projects and include climate-related criteria.
- Strengthen transparency and competition in public procurement.
- Improve cash management to ensure timely payment of investment expenditures.
- Reinforce the monitoring system for public investment projects. This is accompanied by targeted action plans for 2025–2027.