

Enabling Social Innovation in Burkina Faso



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Country Snapshot

Social innovation: "the processes and outcomes of developing novel approaches to address societal challenges facing people and planet." ↓

This snapshot represents a descriptive, non-exhaustive overview of key highlights from Burkina Faso’s social innovation ecosystem.

- ✔ Direct focus on social innovation
- 🔗 Connected but indirect focus on social innovation
- ✖ No focus on social innovation

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Official Definition of Social Innovation 🔗



While no standalone official definition of social innovation was identified for this snapshot, policy language frequently refers to *économie sociale et solidaire*, youth entrepreneurship, community entrepreneurship, and the valorisation of research results and innovations.

Government Body for Social Innovation ✔



Rather than a dedicated social innovation authority, relevant functions are distributed across the ministry responsible for youth and young entrepreneurship, whose mandate includes promoting youth entrepreneurship and the social and solidarity economy, and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation through ANVAR, created under Law No. 038-2013 and organized in 2014.

Government Strategy for Social Innovation ✔



While no standalone national social innovation strategy was identified, the *Plan national de développement 2026–2030* supports an enabling environment through inclusion, endogenous development, community initiatives, support to SMEs and startups, stronger local innovation capacity, and a dedicated program on science, technology and innovation. ANVAR also led the *Stratégie nationale de valorisation des technologies, inventions et innovations 2020–2024*.

Policies, Laws & Regulations ✔ 🔗



Relevant framework elements include the 2017 SME Promotion Orientation Law and SME Charter, which provide advantages linked to taxation, public procurement, finance and land; the legal framework for associations; and the cooperative framework that continues to support collective enterprise forms.

Official Statistics 🔗



No public official statistical series dedicated specifically to social innovation or social enterprise was identified. Official data are stronger for adjacent fields such as SMEs, employment, research and innovation; for example, the PND uses baselines of 129 researchers per million inhabitants in 2024 and R&D spending of 0.25% of GDP in 2021.



Government Programs ✓ 🔗

- FAIJ finances projects for young people aged 18–35 in both urban and rural areas, and eligibility rules explicitly cover youth groups and associations.
- In 2019, the *Programme d'autonomisation économique des jeunes et des femmes* brought together FAIJ, FASI, FAPE and FAARF, with a reported pipeline of 11,049 bankable microprojects for CFAF 5 billion.
- ECOTEC, launched in 2024, mobilized CFAF 106 billion. Its World Bank financing envelope is US\$160 million and includes gender targets for women-owned or women-managed businesses and women trainees.

ECOSYSTEM



Stakeholders ✓ 🔗

The ecosystem is shaped by public, academic and mission-oriented actors. Key institutions include ANVAR, APEC for community entrepreneurship, 2iE's incubator, MEBF and its women-focused agricultural incubation center CIFEAF, and the UNDP Burkina Faso Accelerator Lab.



Support Initiatives ✓ 🔗

- 2iE describes its incubator as Burkina Faso's first technology and social incubator, operational since 2012 and supporting innovative projects with social and/or environmental impact.
- Its Green Start-Up Challenge and entrepreneurial pathways provide incubation, coaching, prototype access and entrepreneurship training.
- CIFEAF, established by MEBF in 2018 with regional and development-partner support, focuses on women's agricultural entrepreneurship, product innovation and business modernization.



Collaboration ✓ 🔗

Collaboration is visible through blended public-community models such as APEC's *actionnariat populaire* scheme and its technical partnership with SCOOP-CA/APEC. The UNDP Accelerator Lab also links local solution-mapping with regional and international innovation challenges.

FINANCE



Financing Schemes ✓ 🔗

- Public and development-finance channels are the most visible.
- BOAD approved CFAF 36 billion in 2025 to support FBDES and CFAF 12.25 billion for the third tranche of inclusive finance support for low-income populations.
- FBDES is positioned as a strategic state vehicle for financing SMEs and firms with growth potential in priority sectors.
- FAARF remains a longstanding national women's fund. First loans can reach CFAF 200,000 per woman or CFAF 3 million per group, with higher ceilings on renewal.



Inclusiveness of Financing

Inclusivity is a clear strength. FAIJ targets youth in rural and urban areas; FAARF is designed for women excluded from conventional banking; CIFEAF supports women agro-entrepreneurs; and ECOTEC includes gender-disaggregated targets for women-owned businesses and women trainees.



Public Awareness of Social Innovation

Public discourse tends to use related frames rather than a fixed “social innovation” label. Official discussion of the social and solidarity economy is visible in labour-policy debates, while entrepreneurship, local innovation, inclusion and resilience are prominent in government and university programs.



Research

ANVAR promotes the valorisation of technologies, inventions and innovations and has led reviews of the national strategy in this area. The PND 2026–2030 further strengthens this direction through a dedicated science, technology and innovation program.



Education

Social-innovation-relevant training is present in higher education. Official program directories list *Économie sociale et solidaire* among recognized courses, while 2iE combines engineering, entrepreneurship and sustainability through its incubator and entrepreneurial pathway.



Entrepreneurship



Business Environment

The latest available World Bank Doing Business ranking is 151st out of 190 economies in DB2020.



Innovation Capacity

Burkina Faso ranked 126th out of 139 economies in the Global Innovation Index 2025.



Social entrepreneurship

The most recent GEM data available are from 2020 and show an entrepreneurial intention rate of 52%, a TEA rate of 23%, and an expert score of 2.7 for access to entrepreneurial finance.



Social & Environmental Consciousness



Solidarity



Political participation

Afrobarometer’s survey found that 66% of youth reported voting in the last national election, 48% attended a community meeting and 32% joined others to raise an issue.



Volunteering

Burkina Faso scored 40 in the World Giving Index 2024, with 64% helping a stranger, 29% donating money and 27% volunteering time.



Sustainability

Burkina Faso ranked 110th in the 2024 Environmental Performance Index and 162nd in the ND-GAIN country index, highlighting the importance of climate- and resilience-oriented innovation.