

# Burkina Faso



## REGION: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

**Also included in this region:** Benin, Cameroon, Côte-d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania

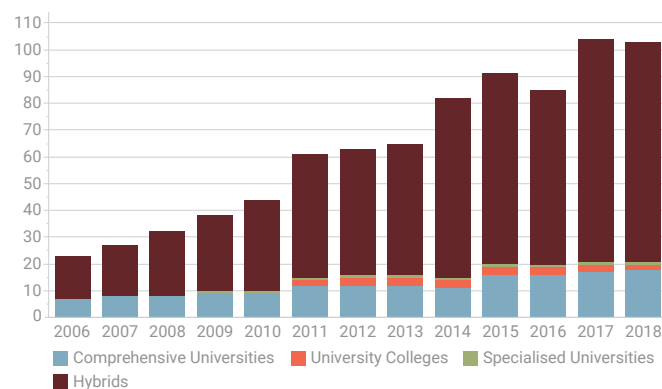
## PART I: ENROLMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

The Burkinabé HE system loosely follows the French model. Roughly 85% of all HE students in Burkina Faso were enrolled in comprehensive universities in 2018, with nearly all the rest attending hybrids. HE enrolments in Burkina Faso nearly quadrupled between 2006 and 2018, rising from around 30,000 students to nearly 120,000. This enrolment growth was well above the averages across both the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Global South. The number of HEIs in the country increased at an even faster rate, meaning that Burkinabé HEIs decreased in average size. Just over 75% of HE enrolments in Burkina Faso were with public providers in 2018, which is below the average in the rest of sub-Saharan Africa.

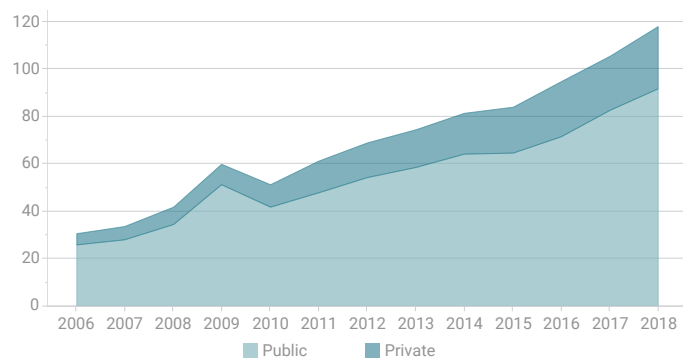
**TABLE 1** – Types of higher education providers

CATEGORY	INSTITUTIONS	INSTITUTIONS COUNT IN 2018		
		PUB.	PRIV.	TOTAL
<b>Comprehensive Universities</b>	Public Universities, Private universities	7	11	18
<b>Specialised Universities</b>	Grandes écoles (public)	1	0	1
<b>University Colleges</b>	Centres universitaires polytechniques	2	0	2
<b>Hybrids</b>	Grandes écoles (private)	0	82	82

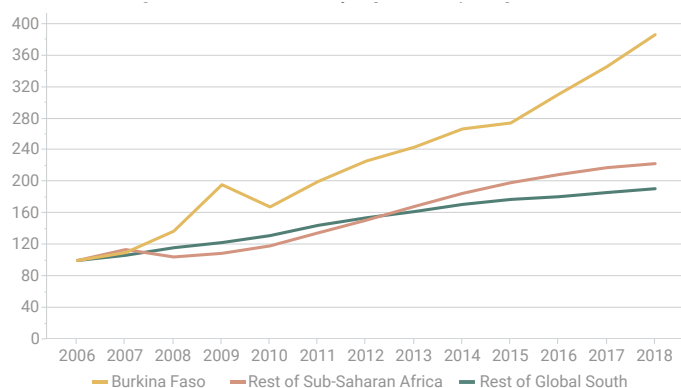
**FIGURE 1** – Numbers of institutions by type, 2006-2018



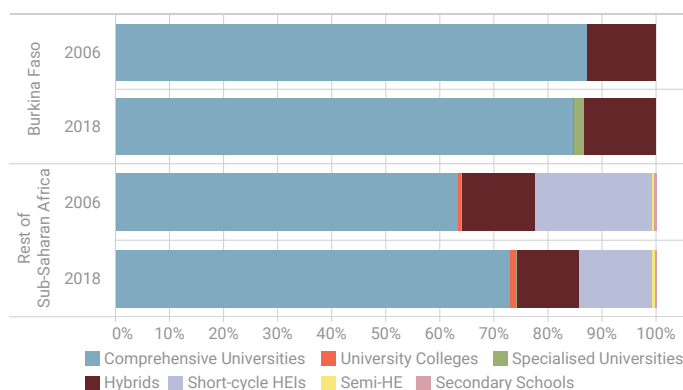
**FIGURE 2** – Total enrolments with public and private higher education providers, 2006-2018 (Millions)



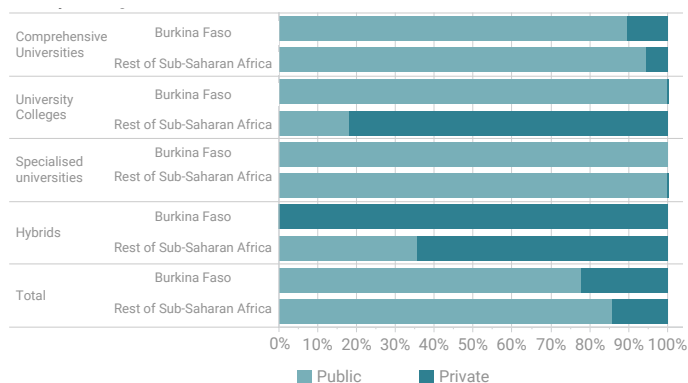
**FIGURE 3** – Changes in enrolment, in Burkina Faso, the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018



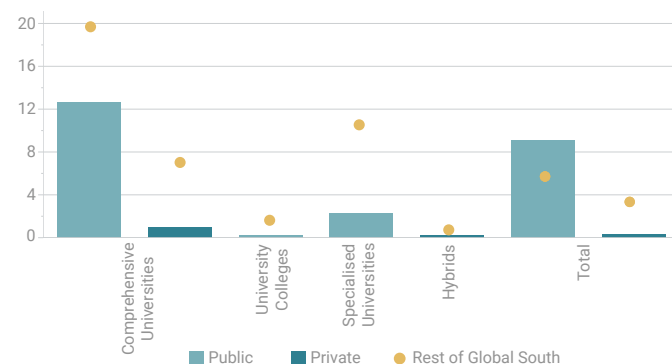
**FIGURE 4** – Share of enrolments by institution type in Burkina Faso and the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa, 2006 and 2018 (2006=100)



**FIGURE 5** – Share of enrolments in public and private institutions, by institution type, in Burkina Faso and the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa, 2018



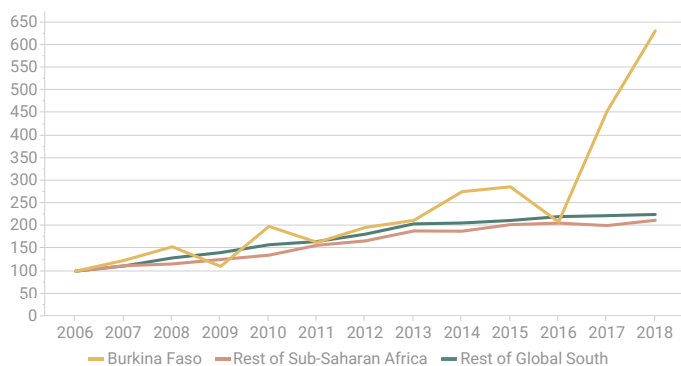
**FIGURE 6** – Average institution-size by institution type in Burkina Faso and the rest of the Global South, 2018 (Thousands)



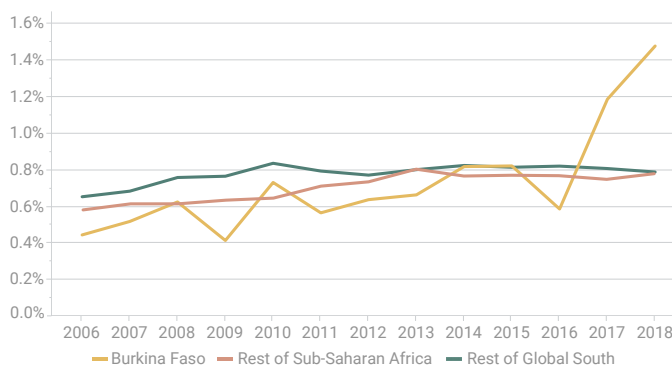
## PART II: HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Between 2006 and 2016, public spending on HE doubled in Burkina Faso, which was more or less on par with the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Global South. However, spending increased most dramatically in 2017 and 2018 – more than tripling relative to 2016. Transfers to public HEIs increased by similar amounts, thus leaving per-student transfers in 2018 at USD 3,000, roughly double where they were in 2006. Public HE expenditures nearly quadrupled relative to GDP, from just over 0.4% to roughly 1.5%, which placed the country far above the averages for both the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Global South.

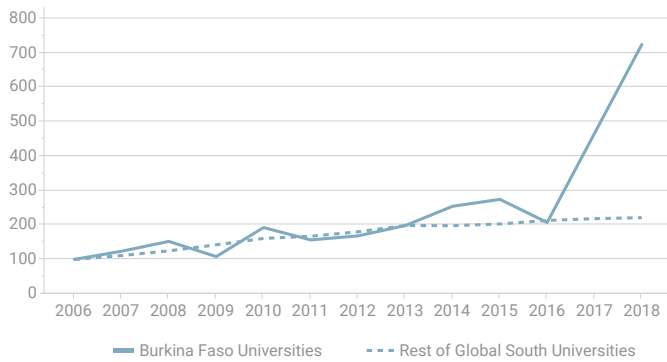
**FIGURE 7** – Change in real total public spending on higher education in Burkina Faso, the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)



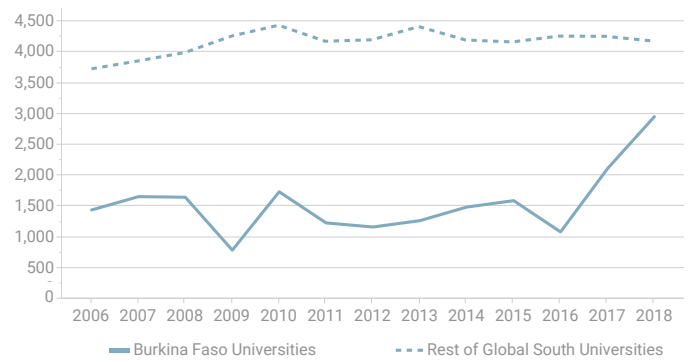
**FIGURE 8** – Total public spending on higher education relative to GDP in Burkina Faso, the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018



**FIGURE 9** – Change in real government transfers to public institutions by institution-type in Burkina Faso and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018 (2006=100)

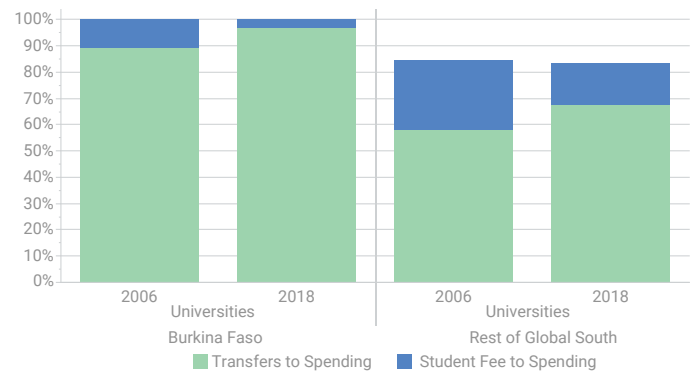


**FIGURE 10** – Per-student government transfers to public institutions by institution-type in real PPP, in Burkina Faso and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018



**2iE – Institut International d'Ingénierie de l'Eau et de l'Environnement, Burkina Faso**

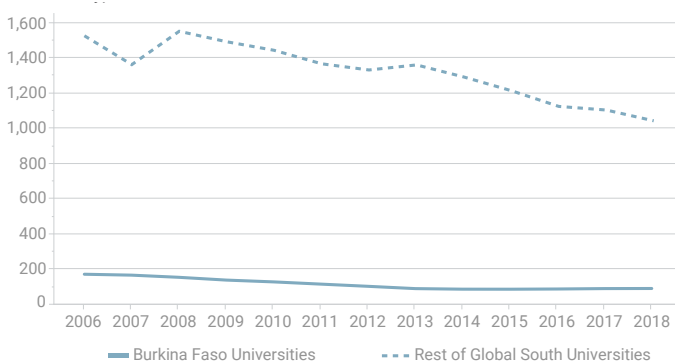
**FIGURE 11** – Government transfers relative to total institutional spending of public institutions by institution-type in Burkina Faso and the rest of the Global South, 2006 and 2018



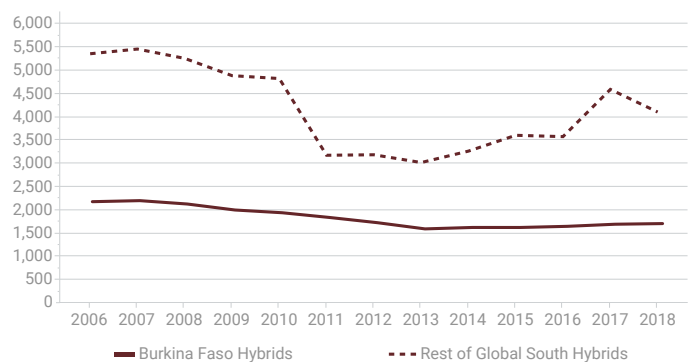
**PART III: STUDENT FEES**

All students in Burkina Faso pay some kind of tuition fees. We estimate that public universities' revenues from these fees fell basically by half from 2006 to 2018, to about USD 100 per year, basically because fees did not adjust for inflation. Per-student fee income at private universities also fell in this period, but remained much higher at roughly USD 1,700 per year.

**FIGURE 12** – Fee revenues per student paying typical rates at public institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



**FIGURE 13** – Fee revenues per student at private institutions by institution type in PPP, 2006-2018



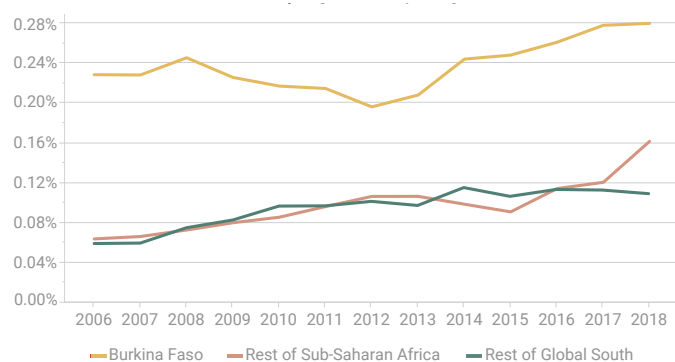
## PART IV: STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Burkina Faso operates an Oeuvres Universitaires model of government student financial aid. Grants were the predominant form of SFA from 2006 to 2018, while loan assistance was generally modest. The government also subsidised housing for about 3% of all students, but we could not ascertain the dollar value of these subsidies. Burkina Faso was exceptional both for the percentage of students who received grants in 2018 as well as the size of the grants relative to GDP/capita. Total student financial aid disbursements in 2018 were worth approximately 0.28% of GDP, far above the averages for both the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Global South.

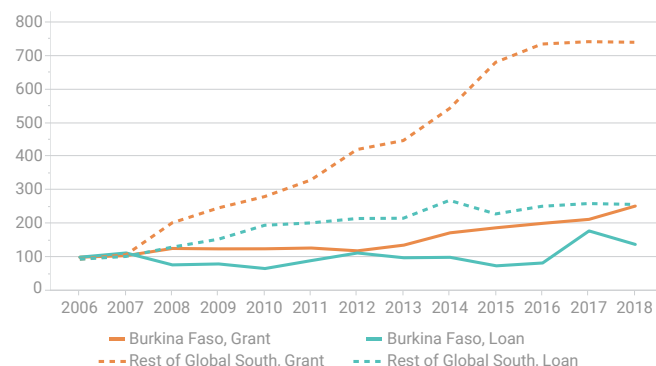
**TABLE 2 – Student financial aid regime, including recipients and amounts disbursed in 2018**

CATEGORY	PROGRAMS	BASIS OF ALLOCATION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS DISBURSED (USD)
Grants	Aides directs and bourses	Need and merit based	63,280	86,302,931
Loans	National student loan agency loans	Open eligibility	9,006	9,706,740
Residence spaces	Oeuvres universitaires model	ND	5,008	ND
Other	Health, meals and transportation support	ND	ND	ND

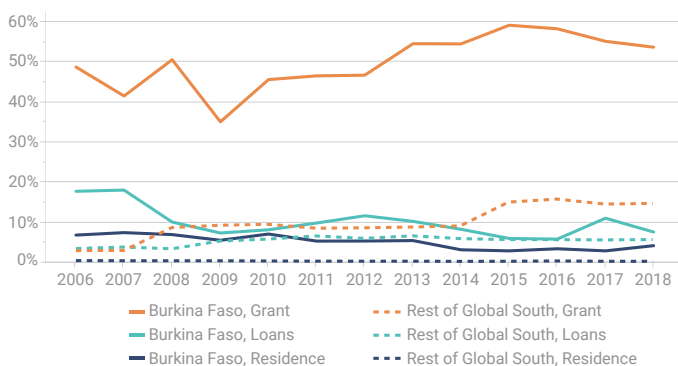
**FIGURE 14 – Total disbursements to students in financial aid relative to gross domestic product, in Burkina Faso, the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the Global South, 2006-2018**



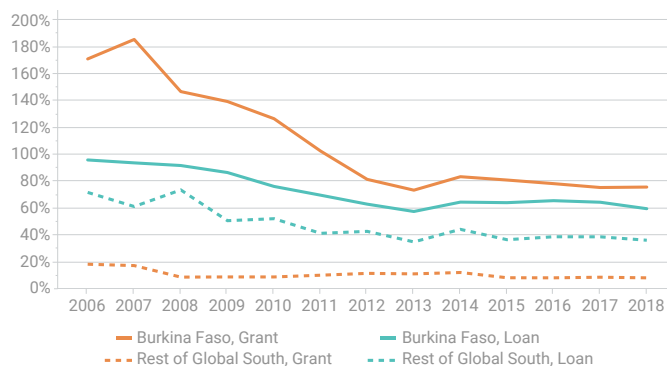
**FIGURE 15 – Change in amounts disbursed to students by form of financial aid in Burkina Faso and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018 (2006=100)**



**FIGURE 16 – Share of higher education students receiving student financial aid by type in Burkina Faso and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018**



**FIGURE 17 – Financial aid per recipient relative to GDP per capita by form of financial aid in Burkina Faso and other Global South countries that offer financial aid of this type, 2006-2018**



**\*Note: For more on methodology and data quality please see [Appendices A and B](#).**