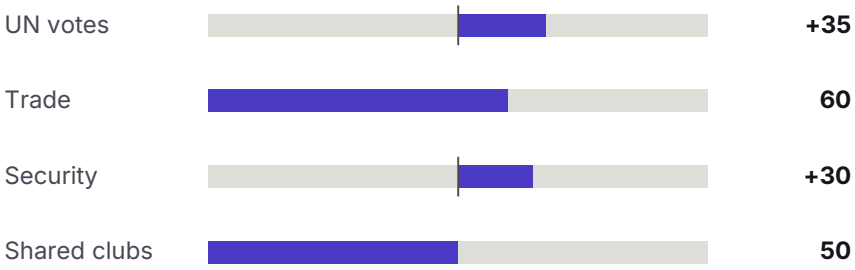
Mali & Burkina Faso

+41

Close

Relationship index, −100 to +100. Votes and security run from −100 to +100; trade and shared clubs from 0 to 100.

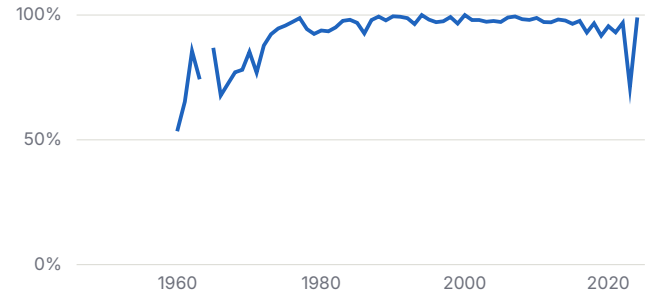


IN SHORT

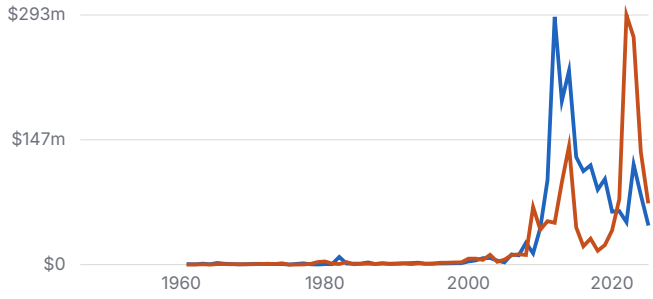
- Armed conflict: UCDP records them on opposite sides, as main parties, in 1985.
- At the UN their vote agreement is 89% (2022–2024), higher than either of them has with most countries.
- Trade in goods ($241 million a year) is modest for Mali, and about as important for Burkina Faso.
- In its UN General Debate speeches, Burkina Faso names Mali far more often than the reverse (61 sentences against 11).
- 70,000 people born in Burkina Faso live in Mali (UN DESA counts place of birth, however long ago they moved). A separate count, by UNHCR: 201,000 refugees and asylum seekers from Burkina Faso in Mali; the two counts measure different things and are not added up.

OVER TIME

Share of recorded UN votes cast the same way

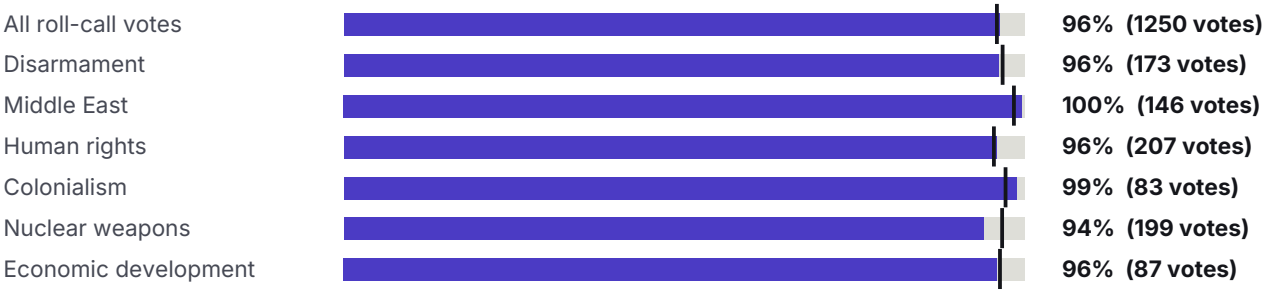


Goods exports each way (US dollars)



Mali sells to Burkina Faso Burkina Faso sells to Mali

VOTES TOPIC BY TOPIC (SINCE 2010)



Bar: since 2010. Mark: all years. Share of roll-call votes on whole texts cast the same way, counted vote by vote; an abstention against a yes counts as a difference. Disarmament, colonialism and economic development count votes up to 2018.

THE FACTS

UN votes	At the UN, the vote agreement of Mali and Burkina Faso was 89% in 2022–2024. For Mali, Burkina Faso is the 7th closest voting partner out of 191; for Burkina Faso, Mali is the 73rd most distant partner.
Trade	Trade in goods between them averaged $241 million a year in 2023–2025: 2.8% of all Mali's trade and 2.2% of Burkina Faso's. Burkina Faso is Mali's 8th largest trading partner.
Words	Since 1946, Mali has named Burkina Faso in 11 sentences of its General Debate speeches; Burkina Faso has named Mali in 61.
Security	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program records them on opposite sides of armed conflict (Burkina Faso, Mali, 1985).
People	38,000 people born in Mali live in Burkina Faso and 70,000 born in Burkina Faso live in Mali (2024, UN DESA).
People	Their national football teams have met 35 times.

HOW SURE WE ARE

UN votes	**High**	206 shared votes on whole texts in 2022–2024, the years the headline share covers. With that many, a share is good to about ±7 points.
Trade	**High**	Goods trade is reported in 3 of the 3 years 2023–2025. Goods only, from customs data (IMF); services and energy pipelines are not in it.
Security	**High**	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program covers every state up to 2025. It counts only conflicts with at least 25 battle deaths a year.
Shared clubs	**High**	The list of tracked groups is fixed; membership is checked by hand.
Index	**High**	As sure as the weaker of its two required parts, votes and trade. Security and shared clubs add to it but never make it surer.

SOURCES AND HOW TO CITE

UN votes, speeches, mentions and trade: Nations on Record (UN General Assembly voting data, UN General Debate Corpus, IMF International Trade in Goods). Armed conflict: Uppsala Conflict Data Program, version 26.1. Migration: UN DESA International Migrant Stock 2024. Refugees: UNHCR. Football: international results archive (CC0). Every score follows fixed rules written out on /method; AI never sets a score. Independent and non-commercial; not affiliated with the United Nations.

Cite as

NationsRelations. (2026). Mali & Burkina Faso [scoring rules 0.4 (14 Nov 2026), scores built 2026-11-14]. https://nationsrelations.org/p/bfa-mli

Scan to open the live page