



WFP Niger Country Brief

March 2018

Operational Context

Niger is a land-locked and food-deficit Sahelian country with a population of over 21 million people and an annual demographic growth of 4 percent, one of the highest in the world. According to the national vulnerability analysis, food insecurity affects 2.6 million people, of which nearly 500,000 are severely food insecure (EVIAM 2017). Acute malnutrition rates remain above the WHO serious threshold, and stunting rates remain critical. Food and nutrition insecurity are driven by poverty, environmental degradation and cyclical shocks, which negatively affect livelihoods. The economy is largely reliant on the climate sensitive agricultural sector, with 90 percent of Niger’s poor living in rural areas. In addition, persisting regional volatility and security issues add to national fragility.

The Government has put resilience building and social protection at the core of its development agenda, highlighting the importance of a multi-sectoral integrated approach, for example the national Nigeriens nourish Nigeriens (3N). Food and nutrition insecurity remains one of the major development challenges. Work is ongoing to ensure alignment to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda. WFP’s intervention is placed within this framework, especially the SDG 2 “Zero Hunger”. WFP has been in Niger since 1968.



Population: **18 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **187 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower**

Chronic malnutrition: **42.2% of children between 6-59 months**

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Tiphaine Walton
Caption: Thanks to FFA activities, women in Dantata have rehabilitated land next to the pond and can now grow onions among other vegetables

In Numbers

961 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 601,903 cash-based transfers made

USD 36 m six months (April-September 2018) net funding requirements, representing 52% of total*

*funding requirements include all three projects

438 802 m people assisted

In MARCH 2018

Operational Updates

- Food assistance-for-assets (FFA) interventions started under the Rome-based Agencies (RBA) project in different sites in the municipalities of Chadakori (Maradi) and Dogo (Zinder). FAO, IFAD and WFP selected the communes of Dan Goulbi (Maradi) and Bandé (Zinder) to conduct the baseline study for the evaluation of the project achievements. These communes are contiguous to those of past interventions, and a Household Economic Approach (HEA) targeting exercise will be carried out in as many RBA villages possible in order to have the vulnerability classification of the households.
- WFP carried out three nutrition-sensitive training sessions for NGO partners and WFP staff in Niamey, Maradi and Diffa sub-offices with the objective of ensuring an understanding of WFP’s Nutrition Strategy and of nutrition-sensitive programming, and introducing a step-by-step approach to integrate nutrition-sensitive activities into strategies, projects and implementation. Within this framework, 65 participants were trained.
- A programme retreat took place in Maradi from 12 to 16 March, which focused on elaborating the resilience and emergency strategies for 2018.
- WFP Niger continues to contribute to the development of the Sahel Shock Response plan, a WFP regional plan that aims to be prepared to respond to additional lean season needs. In Niger, a prioritization exercise is being carried out to inform WFP’s interventions during the lean season.
- On 6 March, a workshop was organized to share and validate the « Fill the Nutrient Gap Niger » results. The workshop recommendations included to: establish a multi-sectoral approach, prioritizing the expansion and continuation of school meals programmes; increase nutrition-sensitive aspects; and include social transfer interventions and support for productive assets of vulnerable households with a teenager could be a point of entry. The results of the study will be disseminated. Various government officials, NGOs and UN agencies participated, amounting to 30 people.

Contact info: wfp.niamey@wfp.org
Country Director: Sory Ouane
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/niger

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) *
Strengthening resilience in Niger through an integrated multi-sector and multi-partner safety net approach			
PRRO 200961 (Jan 2017 – Dec 2019)	420.1 m	126.7 m (30%)	44.8 m
Providing life-saving support to directly affected by insecurity in northern Nigeria			
Regional EMOP 200777 (Jan 2015 – Dec 2018)	184m	122.5 m (66.6%)	10.8 m
Provision of humanitarian air services in Niger			
SO 200792: (Jan 2015 - Dec 2018)	32.4 m	25.9 m (75%)	0.64 m

* April- Sept 2018

Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping

- WFP participated in the *Cadre Harmonisé* exercise from 12-17 March, which estimated the number of people classified in 'Crisis' or above at around 790,000 people for the March-May period. This figure is likely to increase reaching 803,000 people for the peak lean season (June-August). The *Cadre Harmonisé* figures, together with other analyses such as the national food security assessment (EVIAM) inform the Government's humanitarian response plan (*Plan de Soutien*), which currently targets around 1.6 million people for food distributions during the lean season. This includes the original target of 1.4 million people, as well as over 200,000 people identified to be in need during a pastoral and markets assessment conducted jointly with WFP in February 2018.
- WFP participated in a training on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Chronic methodology from 21-22 March. The IPC Chronic analysis is planned from 30 April to 10 May, and will aim at identifying chronic food insecurity in the country.
- WFP also participated in the Outcome Analysis (5-10 March), which informed the *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis, and facilitated a workshop on the link between the *Cadre Harmonisé* and the *Plan de Soutien*.

Donors

Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, ECHO, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Multilateral, Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, UN CERF, United States of America

