



WFP Response in Diffa Factsheet

Context

Diffa region is located in the South-East of Niger, at the border with Nigeria and Chad. With an area of 156,906 km², the region of Diffa is mainly agro-pastoral. The population in 2012 was estimated at 591,821 inhabitants of which 83% live in rural areas.

Niger experienced for the first time attacks within the country from Boko Haram in the Diffa region in February 2015, and a state of emergency was declared, that is in place until today, together with some anti-terrorist measures resulting in negative consequences on people's livelihoods. This crisis compounded an existing precarious food security situation, on account of recurrent droughts and attacks by insects and birds on cereal and other crops. The terrorist threat remains high in Diffa region, as several incidents attributable to the Boko Haram group continued to be recorded in last months. Restrictions still prevent the resumption of normal economic activities, particularly on Lake Chad and along the Komadougou River, previously a major source of livelihoods.

Since the end of 2014, Diffa has witnessed increasing In response to this crisis, WFP launched a regional emergency operation (EMOP 200777) in 2015, which, in Niger, supports refugees from Nigeria, displaced populations (returnees and IDPs) and host population in the Diffa region. According to OCHA's latest statistics (July 2017) there are currently 247,000 people still displaced in the Diffa region.

Humanitarian Situation/ Food Security Update

Over the past few months, despite general alleviation of tensions, there were no signs of refugees or IDPs moving back to their areas and villages of origin.

More recently, an attack in the Kabalewa camp in in Diffa Region at the beginning of July led to the **displacement of 16,000 people**, who lived in the camp, to surrounding villages and sites. WFP continues to assist them in the sites where they have relocated.

Main Photo Credit: WFP Michael Zumstein.
Caption: Smiling children, Katambadjé, Zinder region.

Highlights

- WFP's Regional Emergency Operation in Diffa provides flexible assistance through unconditional and conditional food and cash distributions, and nutritional supplementation for children aged 6-23 months as well as emergency school meals.
- During the month of July, WFP and partners distributed a total of 3,600 tons of food and nutritional supplements to some **220,000 IDPs**, refugees, returnees and vulnerable host population.
- The number of food insecure people in Diffa region is estimated at 408,000, marking a 25 percent increase since last year's Harmonized Framework results.

Given the persistence of the conflict, the lack of economic opportunity, and agro-pastoral deficit, the recent food security figures published by the *Dispositif National de Gestion, de Prévention, de Catastrophes et de Crises Alimentaires* (DNGPCCA), estimates to **408,000** the total number of people in need of assistance. The Humanitarian Response Plan 2017 has been revised accordingly. This figure will be adjusted by the ongoing Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in Diffa region, the results of which are scheduled by mid-September 2017.

According to FEWSNET July 2017 update, the conflict in the Diffa region will continue to **hinder normal market functioning** and typical strategies for most poor households and displaced persons. Despite positive outcomes for the ongoing agricultural season, acute food insecurity outcomes will likely remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) until at least January 2018. In areas that are not accessible for humanitarian assistance, survival and production deficits will likely arise, confirming the critical need for food assistance in these areas and the need to increase access to them.

WFP continues to gradually scale up its operations throughout the year responding to cross-border attacks and multiple population movements.

In Numbers

408,000 people in need of food assistance

220,000 people reached by WFP in July 2017

350 households assisted through the Rapid Response

Mechanism



- WFP's response to the crisis in Diffa region is through Regional Emergency Operation (EMOP) 200777. The Regional Emergency Operation provides flexible assistance through unconditional and conditional food and cash distributions, and nutritional supplementation for children aged 6-23 months as well as emergency school meals. The assistance is provided to an increasing number of refugees in and out of camps, returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host populations affected by the insecurity in northern Nigeria.

WFP's assistance consists of:

- **General food distributions** (in kind/cash based transfers) for IDPs, refugees, vulnerable host communities and returnees.
- Assistance modalities target refugees and displaced populations (returnees and IDPs) along with host populations. The food security response was linked from the start to WFP's blanket feeding activity in an effort to ensure that the most vulnerable children aged 6-23 months receive the micronutrient and caloric value to prevent an increase in malnutrition and mortality. The activities take place in eight communes (Toumour, Bosso, Diffa, Chétimari, Gueskerou, Nguigmi, Kabléwa et Maîné Soroa).
- **Cash transfers** are carried out in areas where markets are accessible, functional and responsive to this modality (communes Maîné Soroa and Diffa). Each household receives a monthly amount of 32,500 CFA francs. Cash transfers are implemented through microfinance institutions and NGO partners. In addition to providing life-saving assistance, cash transfers support functioning markets where the conditions allow and they provide households with the flexibility to purchase food commodities of their choice.
- **Emergency school feeding:** under an initiative by the Government, UN agencies and others emergency school feeding are taking place to ensure the continuity of education to all children of refugees, and other displaced populations (including host families) despite the very difficult security situation.
- **Food for Asset activities:** WFP implements Food Assistance for Asset programmes in the Diffa region under the food and cash modality with the aim of creating low tech community assets in the region. These activities target communities residing in insecure areas within the region during the post-harvest season (November- May). During the annual lean season (June-September) these beneficiaries receive unconditional assistance during the four month period.
- **Blanket supplementary feeding** targets 35,000 children 6-23 months of age.

July 2017 WFP Assistance Update

- During the month of July, WFP, in collaboration with NGOs Karkara, Samaritan Purse, VND/NUR, ACTED and DRC, distributed a total of 3,600 tons of food and nutritional supplements to some **220,000 IDPs**, refugees, returnees and vulnerable host population in the Sayam Forage camps and in the Diffa, Chétimari, Gueskerou, Nguigmi and Kabléwa communes. Due to the slight delay in distributions, the number of beneficiaries reached is currently being assessed.
- **Cash distributions** in the month of July reached **some 11,000 beneficiaries** in Maîné Soroa municipality.
- In June, **food security actors** under the Food Security Cluster reached 431,886 people in need, of which WFP contributed to 47% and the Government 23%; the achievements were slightly below the planning figures of 440,000 people. Some 16 villages were still not covered by food security actors.
- In the framework of the **Rapid Response Mechanism**, WFP assisted **350 newly displaced households fleeing military operations**; the beneficiaries will then be assisted by the IONG ACF.
- In July 2017 a very positive rate of **children benefiting from Blanket Feeding (BF)** was reported (97.33%). This high rate can be attributed to the sensitization campaigns that highlighting the importance of nutritional monitoring of children. As a result, out of 878 children screened during the distributions, 13 cases of moderate acute malnutrition and no severe case were reported. Moderate cases were not referred as these children were already included in the care programme.
- An **Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA)** is being prepared for Diffa. The study will be conducted by the National Institute of Statistics in collaboration with WFP, the early warning system (SAP), implementing partners and the Diffa Working Group on Food Security. The overall objective is to assess quantitatively and qualitatively the food security and nutritional situation in the Diffa region in order to estimate and locate affected people, understand the magnitude and associated factors, and analyse the likely evolution of the situation until the next harvest.



Partnerships

- Strong partnerships at the Niamey and Diffa level along with the **Government** (Cellule Crises Alimentaires et Cellules de Coordination Humanitaire), **United Nations agencies** and **NGOs** contribute to the effectiveness of the implementation of activities under the regional EMOP. WFP actively monitors partners' activities and addresses issues to improve the quality of assistance for beneficiaries where needed.
- A **technical food security working group** led by the regional representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Dispositif (S cretariat Permanent R gional du DNPGCCA) together with WFP meets regularly to ensure proper coordination between actors and optimal usage of scarce resources. WFP also joins forces with ICRC to reach the most affected populations in remote and insecure areas. WFP complements ICRC food basket with food and nutrition commodities for distributions to areas where access is not yet possible for WFP and other partners.
- Care International and Samaritan's Purse have since January 2015 been key partners for the outside camp distributions, further reinforced by NGOs Karkara, VND NUR and APBE. A contract with ACTED was signed for distribution in the Sayam Forage and Kabelewa camp in coordination with UNHCR.



Current challenges

- After a period of calm, **tension has been building up** across the Diffa region due to Boko Haram activities. WFP is coordinating with the Government and other humanitarian partners to implement safety measures.
- Given the volatility of the context and continuing insecurity, Niger's Defence and Security Forces (FDS) have recommended that **humanitarian workers postpone missions** to Gueskerou and other nearby villages for a certain period of time. This resulted in a delay in July food distributions.
- Continued support from donors will be required to sustain WFP relief operations in Diffa particularly in the transition from humanitarian to development assistance, at least in the areas where the security situation allows for some stability. For this, multi-year contributions to foster early-recovery and resilience-building activities will be required.

Shortfalls

- The project shortfalls for operations in Diffa under the Niger component of the EMOP 200777 for 2017 at the current operational level amounts to some **USD 5.9 million**. A budget revision planned for next year will enable a continuation of WFP activities and likely raise the caseload given increased needs. WFP will need to seek additional resources to cover the gaps to continue to provide assistance to vulnerable populations.

Population: **19 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower**

Food insecure throughout Niger: **1.8 million**

Donors

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

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