



World Food Programme

# WFP Niger Country Brief July 2018

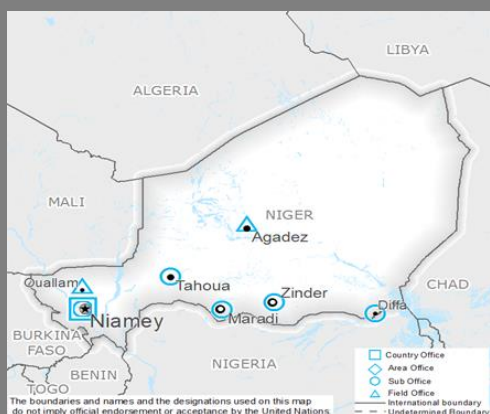


## Operational Context

Niger is a land-locked and food-deficit Sahelian country with a population of over 21 million people and an annual demographic growth of 3.9 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 Nigériens nourish Nigériens (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: **21,5 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **187 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower**

Chronic malnutrition: **42,2% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

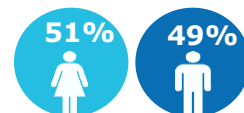
**5,332 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 1.2 m** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 91.6 m** six months (August 2018 to January 2019) net funding requirements, representing 64 percent of total requirements

**645,000 people assisted**

in July 2018



## Operational Updates

- In Niger, WFP reached a total of 645,000 people in July, including local populations affected by acute food crisis during the lean season, as well as refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Diffa (Lake Chad Basin), and the Tillabéri and Tahoua regions bordering Mali. WFP's assistance in July combined food, cash-based transfers, and malnutrition prevention and treatment activities.
- WFP completed a second round of lean season distributions in July for vulnerable populations affected by food and pastoral crisis in 51 priority communities. WFP's response is aligned to the government's response plan that estimates 1.6 million people to be in need of food assistance during the lean season. Of the total needs, food assistance actors (the Government, WFP, and NGOs) cover around 80 percent (1.3 million people) while there are still 300,000 people in need of food assistance, especially in northern Tillabéri and the Tahoua region where less than 60 percent of needs are currently being met.
- Through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), WFP and its partners continue to respond to new humanitarian needs in the Tillabéri and Tahoua regions near the border with Mali, where humanitarian access remains hampered by insecurity. In this context, WFP delivered food assistance to 5,600 new IDPs in the hard-to access communities of Inates and Tougouchmane in the Tillabéri region through the newly opened humanitarian corridor.
- In partnership with the Government, WFP is scaling up resilience interventions in 20 priority communities in Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder regions with the aim of reaching 350,000 additional people by reinforcing existing interventions and expanding into new areas.

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/niger](http://www.wfp.org/countries/niger)

**Main Photo :** Credit : WFP/Aissa Manga

**Caption:** Culinary demonstrations in Angoul Alkali village (Zinder)

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated 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%)	61.7 m
Providing life-saving support to directly affected by insecurity in northern Nigeria			
Regional EMOP 200777 (Jan 2015 – Dec 2018)	184 m	122.5m (66.6%)	26 m
Provision of humanitarian air services in Niger			
SO 200792: (Jan 2015 - Dec 2018)	32,4 m	25.9 m (75%)	3.9 m

\*August 2018 to January 2019

## Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping

- Following regular rainfalls reported in June and July, agricultural activities are progressing normally, with sowing occurring in 98 percent of agricultural villages, similar to what was recorded during the same period in 2017. Meanwhile, in pastoral areas, water availability has improved conditions for livestock.
- A joint Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (WFP, Government, FAO and FEWS NET) is ongoing to assess the progress of the agricultural and pastoral season, with particular attention to at-risk areas, including central Tahoua, where pasture is regenerating at a relatively slow pace compared to the amounts of rainfall received over the past month, requiring continuous close attention.
- The June 2018 Mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) survey found that a large proportion of households in difficult to access areas in the conflict-affected regions of Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabery have poor food consumption levels. Households are more frequently resorting to negative coping strategies to access food, such as reducing the number of meals per day, limiting portion sizes, and taking loans to buy food.

## Resilience

- The Government's Resilience scale-up plan for the 2019-2021 period, has been finalized and shared by the Resilience Task Force under the High Commissioner of the Nigeriens Nourishing Nigeriens Initiative (3N). In support of the government's scale-up plan, WFP is working on scaling up resilience interventions in geographically concentrated areas in Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder regions with the aim of reaching 350,000 people. Building on successful models for resilience building in the past, and significant gains made to date, the approach integrates activities over up to five consecutive years, shifting focus from environmental rehabilitation, asset creation and lean season support in the first phase of implementation to building human capital and prospects of income generation.
- To facilitate the expansion of activities to new areas, WFP has convened multi-sectoral teams integrating a wide range of

technical experts to identify priority sites, strengthen integration between activities and enhance operational partnerships with government and partners.

## Nutrition

- The preliminary findings of the Cost of Hunger in Africa study were validated on 20 July by the steering committee under the direction of the high commissioner initiative of Nigeriens Nourishing Nigeriens (3N). The study estimates that child malnutrition is costing the country nearly 290 billion CFA francs (USD 500 million) a year, equivalent to 7.1 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP). Further, the study estimates that undernutrition is responsible for 42.7 percent of total child deaths, subsequently reducing Niger's working age population by 6.7 percent. The report is presently being drafted and the official launch is planned in October.
- In the framework of WFP lean season response, 52,664 children aged 6 -23 months were assisted with blanket supplementary feeding for the prevention of malnutrition and 29,694 adolescent girls received Folic Acid Iron supplementation. Malnutrition treatment activities are ongoing in all five targeted regions (Diffa, Tillabery, Maradi, Zinder and Tahoua), for children aged 6-23 months suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), pregnant women and caretakers.
- A Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) survey is planned in September to gauge the nutrition situation across the country, including a component on retrospective mortality and iodine deficiency levels.

## Education

- WFP representatives from the Education Ministry and the 3N initiative carried out a survey in Dosso from 18 to 23 July to collect information on local purchasing programmes from small producers. WFP participated in a training facilitated by the Education and WASH clusters to define the minimum WASH kit in schools, especially in emergency situations.

## Challenges

- Humanitarian access remains a challenge in the Tillabery and Tahoua regions, where according to the Protection Cluster, some 32,000 people have been displaced (20,000 in Tillabery and 13,000 in Tahoua) following a spike in inter-community clashes and armed group attacks.

## Donors

### In alphabetical order

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.