



World Food Programme

WFP Niger Country Brief

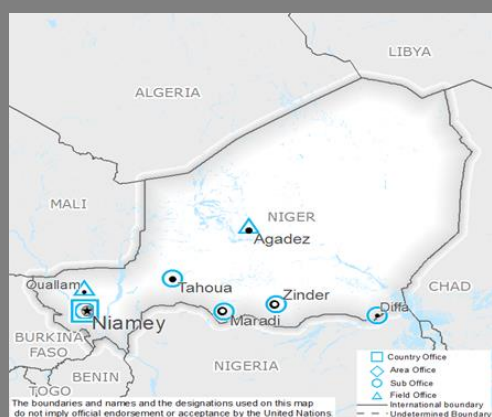
October 2018



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 2.7 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, spearheaded by the national Nigeriens nourish Nigeriens initiative (I3N). 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 present in Niger since 1968.



Population: **21,5 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **189 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower**

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

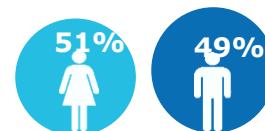
In Numbers

2,696 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 208,078 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 80 m six months (November 2018 to April 2019) net funding requirements.

425,408 people assisted
in October 2018



Operational Updates

- In October, WFP provided food assistance to 425,408 people, of whom 19,438 people received cash assistance. WFP also reached 68,449 children aged 6-23 months and 31,565 pregnant and lactating women as part of malnutrition treatment activities. A total of 144,978 children benefited from hot meals in 959 schools.
- In Niger's Tillabery region at the border with Mali, persisting insecurity affected humanitarian access and need assessments. A humanitarian corridor was opened in early October, allowing for the provision of urgently required assistance. WFP was able to assist all 9,674 planned beneficiaries with general food distribution; out of these, 887 children aged 6-23 months received specialized nutritious food to prevent malnutrition.
- WFP also continued to respond in Diffa/Lake Chad region affected by the insecurity in northern Nigeria. In October, WFP provided food assistance and nutrition assistance to 175,867 refugees, internally displaced persons, and vulnerable host communities.
- However, since early October, WFP had to reduce its food basket provided as part of its humanitarian response in the Diffa region due to a lack of resources. Further reductions are envisaged if no additional funding is received in the near future.
- From 24 to 25 October, Mr Gresham Barret, WFP's Special Envoy for the Sahel region, carried out a field visit to the Darguè, Doumana Ara and Kouroungoussaou sites in the Maradi region. Led by WFP's Deputy Country Director, the visit was an opportunity for the Special Envoy to understand the main challenges of food insecure people in Niger and WFP's efforts in scaling up its resilience activities in the country.

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Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Rein Skallerud

Caption: Schools meals activities in Guidan Amoumoune – Maradi region

WFP Operations

GENDER MARKER



	2018 Total Requirements (in USD)	2018 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)	139 m	82 m	58 m
Providing life-saving support to directly affected by insecurity in northern Nigeria			
Regional EMOP 200777 (Jan 2015 – Dec 2018)	46 m	27 m	19 m
Provision of humanitarian air services in Niger			
SO 200792: (Jan 2015 - Dec 2018)	8.2 m	7 m	3.9 m

* Allocated contributions as of 4 December 2018

** November 2018 – April 2019

Monitoring

- The post distribution monitoring (PDM) results from September, which marked the end of the lean season, show an improvement in household's food security situation in all regions as compared to the previous PDM cycle in July. Among the households that received WFP assistance during this timeframe, 61 percent were found to be food secure. This is in comparison to 44 percent food secure in July. It is estimated that the first harvests of the agricultural season contributed significantly to this improvement in the food security situation.

Resilience

- WFP's scale-up of its resilience activities through the integrated package in the selected "communes de convergence" is ongoing. During October, 252 persons from the government, including from the ministries of agriculture and environment, as well as cooperating partners and WFP staff were trained in the management of Food for Assets (FFA) activities in Tahoua, Maradi and Zinder regions. The trainings focused on techniques for the creation of quality productive assets and the construction of multifunctional structures. It also provided an opportunity for government counterparts and partners to have a common understanding of the objectives and implementation of these activities.
- In addition, 26 staff members from WFP's offices in Agadez, Diffa, Zinder and Tahoua were trained in qualitative research techniques. These training will help field staff to improve and refine their research and analysis techniques.

Nutrition

- On 19 October, WFP presented the "Fill the Nutrient Gap" (FNG) analysis, a tool which identifies the main obstacles faced by households and individuals in accessing nutritious and quality food in Niger. Among others, the study highlighted the correlation between women's lower social status in Niger and its negative impact on the nutritional status of the women and children. The FNG analysis was carried out with the mobilization and participation of governmental and non-governmental organisations, the United Nations, as well as the academic and private sectors.

Education

- A total of 179 girls in Dingazi commune in the Tillabéry region attended WFP's sensitization sessions carried out as part of WFP's project in support of adolescent girls. The sessions focused on food and water hygiene, as well as personal hygiene, and life skills.
- WFP's scale-up activities also target the education sector. In cooperation with the Ministry of Primary Education, WFP identified new primary schools to benefit from its school meals activities in the Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder regions.

UNHAS

- Due to the inaccessibility in Tillabery region, a newly acquired helicopter, funded by the UN- CERF, will transport humanitarian personnel to the Tillabery region, particularly to priority areas of Ayorou, Tangoushiman, Inates and Abaonkor at the border with Mali, where the security environment is highly unstable.
- In response to the increased needs due to the cholera epidemic in Maradi region, UNHAS has increased its flight rotations to the affected area. Additional rotations will support the humanitarian community in scaling up its response to the epidemic which has affected the region since July.

Challenges

- As of January 2019, WFP is facing a serious lack of resources for emergency operation in Diffa region, and nutrition and school feeding activities. WFP's Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP)- under approval- is only 20 percent funded, forcing WFP to already drastically reduce its targets.
- The T-ICSP will continue current projects under one framework, with a total budget of USD 265.9 million, and targeting 2.1 million beneficiaries in 2019.

Donors (In alphabetical order)

Belgium, Canada, China, European Commission, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Multilateral, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, UN CERF, United States of America.