



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Niger Country Brief November 2018

## In Numbers

**US\$ 364,037** cash based transfers made

**US\$ 82 m** six months (December 2018 to May 2019) net funding requirements

**675,930 people** assisted  
in November 2018



**WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

### Operational Context

Niger is a land-locked and food-deficit Sahelian country with a population of 21.5 million people and an annual demographic growth of 3.9 percent, the highest in Africa. According to the national vulnerability analysis, food insecurity affects 2.7 million people, of which nearly 500,000 are severely food insecure (EVIAM 2017). The 2018 SMART Survey indicates that acute malnutrition rates remain at 14 percent, above the WHO serious threshold, and stunting rates is 48 percent. 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 (IN). 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: **Low**

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

### Operational Updates

- In November, WFP provided food assistance to 675,930 people, of whom 239,380 people received cash assistance. In addition, 27,800 children aged 6-23 months and 26,981 pregnant and lactating women received treatment for moderate acute malnutrition. A total of 142,596 children benefited from hot meals in school canteens.
- In collaboration with the non-governmental organization Danish Refugees Council, WFP also provided assistance to 3,080 Chadian refugees hosted at the Kourchi Koura site in the commune of Nguigmi in the Diffa region. Each household received monthly food rations during the month of November.
- In the Tillabery region, the communes of Banibangou and Inatès, bordering Mali, recorded a peak in the number of internally displaced persons. WFP supported 37,163 beneficiaries and 2,591 children aged 6-23 months between 22 November to 2 December 2018 through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM).
- So far in 2018, WFP provided food assistance to 53,557 beneficiaries under the RRM, through the distribution of 2,488 mt of food. Due to the insecurity and the displacement of conflict-affected populations, WFP will increase the number of people to assist under the RRM to 76,000 people in 2019 in the Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabéry regions.
- UNHAS prepared the ground for humanitarian helicopter flights into the above-mentioned area at the border with Mali. Several landing areas were identified and secured. Flight rotations are expected to start in December 2018.
- November was marked by the effective start of food assistance for assets (FFA) in targeted regions and in the municipalities that benefit from the scaling up of resilience activities in line with the Government's plan.
- A total of 11,592 Malian refugees residing in Tahoua's Refugee Reception Area were also assisted through FFA activities.

**Contact info:** [wfp.niamey@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.niamey@wfp.org)

**Country Director:** Sory OUANE

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

**Main Photo**

**Credit:** WFP/Aissa Manga

**Caption:** FFA activities – Dosso 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	20 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

\*\* December 2018 - May 2019

## Education

- In November, WFP led a mission to implement the school feeding programme in the new schools in Zinder and Maradi regions. The mission allowed to sensitize the communities on WFP's school feeding programme. Community actors involved in the implementation process have a global view of the programme and the role and responsibilities the communities can play to ensure its successful implementation.
- As part of its capacity strengthening activities, WFP and the Ministry of Education trained canteen management committee members and school principals on the school feeding strategy and tools for implementation in Tahoua region. The evaluation results of the pilot phase of the "cash transfers to schools" project showed that 9,000 children have successfully received their meals on a regular basis. Furthermore, communities took more responsibility in the school feeding activities, and the link between schools and smallholder farmers was strengthened. Schools in the project areas were supplied with quality local produce, and incomes of smallholder farmers have increased.

## Nutrition

- Preliminary results of the national nutrition survey based on Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) methodology with retrospective mortality and iodine show that the prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) for children aged 6-59 months in the country is 14.4 percent and the stunting rate is 47.8 percent. These results show an increase over the results of the last SMART survey (2016). The regions most affected by acute and chronic malnutrition are Zinder, Maradi, Tahoua and Diffa.

## Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)

- November marked the launch of FFA activities in the newly identified sites for the scale up of the WFP's resilience activities, assisting 194,000 beneficiaries. Activities have started also in other existing sites, as part of WFP's progression strategy which foresees a progressive reduction of food assistance, while increasing capacity strengthening activities.
- Technical trainings on land and water management techniques have been jointly organized by WFP and the ministries of agriculture and environment, with 494 participants, including government technical services at municipal, regional and national level, cooperating partners and WFP staff.

## Challenges

- On 30 November, the Government declared a state of emergency for three months in the departments of Say, Torodi and Tera in Tillabéry region, at the border with Burkina Faso, due to a deteriorating security situation. WFP and partners are monitoring the situation and are prepared to respond to additional needs caused by displacement.
- WFP faces a critical funding shortfall for its emergency response in Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabéry region, amounting to USD 33.6 million for the first six months of 2019. Through its emergency response, WFP provides crucial food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities. Since October 2018, WFP already had to reduce its food basket provided to crisis-affected refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities in Diffa region. Should no additional resources be received, WFP might be forced to reduce its food basket further, and in a second step will have to further prioritize the most vulnerable beneficiaries for its emergency assistance.

## Gender

- To support the 16 days of activism on gender-based violence, the WFP country office in Niger organized several sensitization activities for WFP staff from 26 November to 10 December. The campaign included a gender fair and a gender breakfast, where different units explained how they integrate gender issues into their daily work, followed by film screenings and conference debate with national gender policy activists focusing on gender-based violence.

## 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.