



**NIGER TRANSITIONAL INTERIM COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN
(2019)**

Duration	1 January 2019 - 31 December 2019
Total cost to WFP	USD 265,929,079
Gender and Age Marker Code	3

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An average of 5.6 million people in Niger are unable to fully meet their food and nutrition needs because of insufficient food availability, inadequate production, security constraints, demographic growth, socio-cultural and structural gender inequalities, among others. Of these, about 2.65 million are affected year-on-year. The global acute malnutrition (10.3 percent) and the stunting (42.2 percent) rates exceed the WHO's threshold for a "critical" nutrition situation. Conflict in neighbouring countries affects Niger's security, economy, migration, humanitarian needs and long-term development.

Building on the three previous operations (PRRO 200961, EMOP 200777 and SO 200792), this one-year T-ICSP will continue to respond to the needs of economically poor women, men, girls and boys, contributing to the following strategic outcomes:

- Crisis-affected populations, including refugees and IDPs, in targeted areas are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises.
- Food insecure primary school-age children, in targeted regions have access to adequate and nutritious food all year-round.
- Nutritionally vulnerable groups including children, pregnant women and adolescent girls in targeted areas have enhanced nutritional status all year-round.
- Food insecure populations and communities exposed to climate shocks in targeted areas have more resilient livelihoods and sustainable food systems all year-round.
- National institutions have strengthened capacities to manage gender equitable food-security, nutrition, and social protection and resilience building programmes by 2030.
- Humanitarian and development partners have access to common services to access and operate in targeted areas throughout the year.

There is no essential strategic change, except the T-ICSP brings a greater coherence and integration, including through strengthened integration of gender, between the resilience and crisis response windows, particularly in refugee and crisis-affected areas where relief will be implemented as part of a longer-term strategy to enhance self-reliance and strengthen livelihoods.

1. COUNTRY ANALYSIS

1.1. COUNTRY CONTEXT

1. Niger is a landlocked, low-income food-deficit country in the Sahel, ranking last in the 2018 Human Development Index. Poverty rate of 44.1 percent is higher among women and the ratio of women to men in the labour force is 0.44; only 40 percent of women are employed in the formal economy and their capacity is limited by household-related responsibilities and chores.
2. Annual population growth at 3.9 percent is one of the highest in the world with 51.6 percent of the population under 14.¹ Over 80 percent of its 21.5 million inhabitants rely on the climate-sensitive agriculture to meet their food needs.² Food insecurity is exacerbated by poverty, demographic pressure, economic and climate shocks, persistent gender inequalities,³ limited national budgets and capacities especially at decentralized level for food security, nutrition and education.
3. Conflict in neighbouring Mali, Libya, and Nigeria,⁴ negatively impacts Niger's security, economy, migration, humanitarian needs and development. Subsequent loss of livelihoods and high unemployment rates⁵ put an increasing number of youth (both male and females) at risk of recruitment by non-state armed groups and of human trafficking and exploitation.
4. Niger hosts 58,000 Malian refugees in the Tillaberi and Tahoua regions since 2012, and since 2014, about 250,000 people are displaced by the Boko Haram crisis in the Diffa region.⁶ Insecurity along the borders with Mali and Burkina Faso, combined with inter-communal violence, has led to the displacement of about 40,000 people in Tillaberi and Tahoua regions, since the beginning of 2018.

1.2. PROGRESS TOWARDS SDG 2

➤ *Progress on SDG 2 targets*

Access to food

5. Low income and purchasing power, a weak social protection system, fluctuating food prices, and a weak supply chain infrastructure hamper access to nutritious food for poor people, especially women and girls given socio-cultural and structural gender inequalities. On average, 5.6 million people are food insecure⁷ because of insufficient food availability associated with inadequate production, security constraints, demographic growth and other factors. Of these, about 2.65 million are affected each year, constituting the most vulnerable

¹ Institut National de la Statistique (INS), 2014.

² Sex-disaggregated data not available

³ Niger ranks 151th out of 188 countries on the Gender Inequality Index and bottom third in the Women's Empowerment Dashboard, with gender disparities, especially in literacy, mortality, morbidity and access to assets. Women are overburdened with domestic responsibilities and at risk of gender-based violence and early marriage.

⁴ Especially terrorist activities by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin region and conflict between jihadists and G5 forces in the western part of the country.

⁵ Data from 2008 indicated that 41.6 percent of the population aged 15-64 was formally employed (56.8 percent male, 29 percent female) and only 17.2 percent of women had a paid job (ILO, Profil Pays du Travail Decent, 2013).

⁶ 118,868 refugees, 25,731 returnees and 104,288 IDPs.

⁷ Integrated Context Analysis (ICA).

people. In case of shocks, up to 48 percent of the country’s population can become food insecure, highlighting the chronic nature of Niger’s vulnerability to food insecurity.⁸

6. Other constraints include gender inequalities, inadequate care and food, limited access to education and to WASH services. Food consumption is mainly based on cereals (59 percent). More than 40 percent of households cannot afford a daily nutritious diet in Maradi (43 percent), Zinder (47 percent) and Diffa (59 percent) regions.⁹
7. In 2018, over 2.7 million people are food insecure in rural areas, with an additional 6 million people at risk of falling into food insecurity in case of a shock.¹⁰ The main causes are the poor performance of the 2017 season in pastoral areas¹¹, pockets of poor agricultural production and conflict which limits market activities, restricting people’s movements and causing displacement. Women-headed households are more than twice as likely to be food insecure in 2018¹² than men-headed households.¹³

End malnutrition

8. Malnutrition represents a major public health problem in Niger. Stunting and global acute malnutrition affect 42.2 percent and 10.3 percent of children under five respectively, with large disparities among regions.¹⁴ Anaemia affects children under 5 (73.4 percent) and females aged 15-49 years (45.8 percent).

Stunting prevalence – children under 5	Boys (43.8 percent); Girls (40.6 percent) Most affected regions Maradi (53.8 percent), Zinder (50.1 percent), Tahoua (39 percent) and Dosso (38.8 percent)
GAM – children aged 6–59 months	Boys (12.8 percent); Girls: (7.8 percent) 6–23 months (17.4 percent); 24–59 months (6.2 percent) Most affected regions: Agadez and Maradi (12.9 percent), Zinder (11.7 percent), and Diffa (13.9 percent) ¹⁶
MAM prevalence – children aged 6-59 months	Boys (10.3 percent); Girls (6.5 percent)
Low body mass index – women of reproductive age	15.55 percent

9. The main immediate determinants of maternal and child undernutrition include inadequate infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices, high morbidity, adolescent pregnancies, high fertility rate¹⁷, short inter-productive intervals and limited access to basic health services, including sexual and reproductive health services. Access to a diversified diet remains challenging and a nutritious diet costs between two and five times more than one

⁸ No data available on hunger vulnerability and food insecurity.

⁹ WFP, 2018, Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) Niger

¹⁰ EVIAM 2017/18.

¹¹ Resulting in a livestock fodder deficit of around 11 million mt or 41 percent of overall needs and is higher than the early warning threshold of 35 percent.

¹² Around 30 percent of women-headed households were found to be food insecure against 13 percent of men-headed households, EVIAM 2017/18.

¹³ Age-sex disaggregated data not available. This can be due to the limited formal employment for women and restricted access to land (to work) and its resources.

¹⁴ INSNS, 2018, Enquête démographique et de santé – résultats préliminaires

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ National Statistics Institute, Ministry of Health, UNICEF, WFP, 2017, Evaluation nationale de la situation nutritionnelle par la méthodologie SMART dans la région de Diffa (République du Niger) ; the EDS results have not been validated yet.

¹⁷ The fertility rate is 7,6 children per woman (World Bank)

that covers energy needs (FNG, 2017-2018). Almost one million children are treated each year in government-led malnutrition treatment centres and about 122,000 are at risk of death in absence of treatment.¹⁸

Smallholder productivity and incomes

10. Niger is a food-deficit country, importing over 8 percent of its national cereal needs, which makes the country highly vulnerable to price fluctuations and trade flow disruptions. Agriculture represents 36.5 percent of the GDP with over 87 percent of the population (females 72 percent; males 79 percent) estimated to be working in the rural sector.¹⁹ The overall national contribution of smallholders, including pastoralists, farmers and fishers, is to date not quantified. Post-harvest food losses amount to 10 to 20 percent.²⁰ Over 80 percent of rural households remain very poor (37.4 percent) or poor (43.8 percent).²¹ Smallholders lack suitable access to agricultural inputs, structured markets, equipment and technical know-how. Women face a gap in agricultural productivity²² due to limited availability of and control on male labour, unequal use of fertilisers and land ownership with men enjoying higher returns than women.

Sustainable food systems

11. Niger's vast agro-pastoral and fishery resources²³ are increasingly impacted by climatic shocks (low and variable rainfall, land degradation and desertification) and increasing population and livestock growth.

12. Since the 1970s, Niger has experienced five severe droughts often followed by food crises that have impacted vulnerable populations and reduced community resilience.²⁴ Over 50 percent of the lands were deforested between 1958 and 1997 with current rates of degradation estimated at 80,000 to 120,000 hectares annually.²⁵

13. Poor and food insecure populations, particularly marginalised groups (such as women), have limited capacity to cope with these threats. The need for large scale investments in the value chain represents another key challenge.

➤ *Macro-economic environment*

14. Economic growth of 4.9 percent remains the slowest within the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and is driven by agriculture and services (45 percent of the GDP²⁶) while industry represents 18,5 percent of the GDP. The banking and microfinance sector reaches only 2 percent of the population living in poverty²⁷ - reaches more men than

¹⁸ Niger National Nutrition Working Group, 2018 estimates. Data disaggregated by sex and age not available.

¹⁹ 2016, World Bank Indicators

²⁰ CNUCED, 2010, Rapport 2010 sur la technologie et l'innovation.

²¹ WFP, 2017, Midline survey to measure progress on key indicators.

²² February 2015, *Prosperer Backiny-Yetna*, Kevin McGee, World Bank Group "Gender Differentials and Agricultural Productivity in Niger"

²³ 15 million hectares of arable land, an irrigable potential of about 11 million hectares, very large pastoral areas with an estimated livestock of 43 million heads in 2015, and fishery resources covering an area of about 410,000 ha. Niger, 2017, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy 2035.

²⁴ Losses are evaluated at USD 44m per year, World Bank, 2013, Agricultural Risk Assessment in Niger: moving from crisis response to long term risk management.

²⁵ <http://www.worldagroforestry.org/news/farmer%E2%80%99s-perception-land-degradation-and-solutions-restoring-soil-fertility-niger>

²⁶ CIA World Factbook, 2016 estimates

²⁷ WFP, 2018, Macrofinancial assessment in Niger (MAFA).

women. Inequality remains a challenge, with a Human Inequality Coefficient of 34.3 percent.²⁸

15. Persistent conflict and security threats, falling oil and uranium prices on world markets²⁹ and the slow economic growth linked to unequal labour force participation rate (males 90,7 percent; females 67,5 percent) continue to constitute key challenges.

➤ *Key cross-sectorial linkages*

16. Achieving Zero Hunger is strongly interlinked with other SDGs, particularly SDG 1 (end poverty), SDG 3 (health), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), and SDGs 13, 14, and 15 (ecology and environment).

17. Life expectancy is 60.4 years, maternal mortality is high at 553 deaths per 100,000 live births and under-five mortality is 95.5/1,000 births³⁰. HIV prevalence is low at 0.5 percent. The sex ratio at birth is 1.05. The fertility rate at 7.3 births per woman is the highest in the world (indicating lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services).³¹

18. Literacy rate between 15 and 24 years stands at 23.5 percent (males 34.5 percent; females 15 percent). Despite progress in access to primary education,³² retention remains of concern particularly in some of the regions targeted by WFP operations. In 2016 the child enrolment rate in primary school was 78.1 percent (boys 82.7 percent; girls 73.3 percent).³³

19. Persistent gender inequalities – especially in mortality, morbidity, access to assets, decision-making and violence – continue to deny women and girls their human rights and impede sustainable development. Women and girls face discrimination in terms of the legal age of marriage (15 years), access to education, information and health services, participation in the public realm,³⁴ restricting their opportunities, choices, health and well-being, and compromising that of their dependents. Niger is the second highest country in the world for girl marriage. More than three-quarters of girls are married before 18 and one-quarter before 15.³⁵ Over 38 percent of girls between 15 and 19 years old experience early pregnancy.³⁶ Unpaid care and domestic work and girl marriage constitute the two key challenges limiting girls' access to education, acquisition of knowledge, skills and self-confidence, compounding inequalities into adulthood that have direct impacts on food security.

1.3 HUNGER GAPS AND CHALLENGES

20. The ZHSR undertaken under the leadership of the Government, once validated will feed into the 2020-2024 Country Strategic Plan (CSP).

21. WFP's current operations address the main food security and nutrition gaps and challenges analysed above. Other major challenges include poor social protection systems, weak disaster risk reduction and crisis preparedness and response schemes, and limited capacity

²⁸ Human Development Report 2018.

²⁹ According to government estimates, the price of uranium fell by over 20 percent in 2017 compared to 2016.

³⁰ Human Development Report 2018.

³¹ Human Development Report 2016.

³² Gross enrolment rate: 82.1 percent for boys and 70.2 percent for girls; gross access to education rate: 93 percent boys and 79.9 percent for girls, achievement rate of 87.4 for boys and 69.5 for girl, with a gender parity index of 0.81 at the national level.

³³ Ministère de l'Enseignement Primaire, de l'Alphabétisation, de la Promotion des Langues Nationales et l'Education Civique, 2017.

³⁴ Only 17 percent of parliamentarians are females: <http://archive.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>

³⁵ Enquête Démographique et de Santé et à Indicateurs Multiples (EDSN-MICS IV) 2012 INS.

³⁶ cfr. footnote 27

of Government and key stakeholders (technical, operational and financial) with a direct impact on the response delivered to those furthest behind.

1.4 KEY COUNTRY PRIORITIES

22. The Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy 2035 and the Economic and Social Development Plan 2017-2021 are articulated around six main pillars: security, state modernisation, dynamization and modernisation of the rural world, development of the human capital, development of dynamic private sector and demographic transition.
23. **Resilience and social protection:** The main building blocks are the *Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens* (Nigeriens Nourishing Nigeriens) initiative (I3N), the 2016–2020 I3N Priority Action Plan and the 2014 Global Alliance for Resilience initiative. These initiatives (complemented by the 2011 Social Protection Policy) promote a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder integrated and coordinated approach to resilience and social protection based on national capacity development, ownership and leadership. Since October 2017, a safety net programme supported by the World Bank has been incorporated into the *Dispositif National de Prévention et de Gestion des Catastrophes et des Crises Alimentaires* (DNPGCCA). This has brought a new dynamic ensuring that food and nutrition safety nets are coordinated at strategic and operational levels. A Government scale-up plan of resilience activities³⁷ has recently been launched with the support of WFP.
24. **Nutrition:** Niger joined the Scaling Up Nutrition movement in February 2011. Nutrition is included in the I3N action plan (axis 4 - reduction of food insecurity and malnutrition). The national nutrition security policy (2016-2025) and nutrition strategic plan (2017-2025) aim at eliminating all forms of malnutrition through a multi-sectorial and holistic approach.
25. **Environment and climate change:** Niger has committed to protecting the environment and fighting climate change through the 2015 National Framework on Climate Services, the National Policy on Climate Change (NCCP), the National Adaptation Plan and the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions agreement. Niger is also part of the Lake Chad Development and Climate Resilience Action Plan (LCDAP).³⁸
26. **Education and home-grown school feeding:** The national strategy on school feeding, the national policy on food security and nutrition that has school feeding dimension, and the national strategy for purchases from smallholder farmers guide the interventions for education and school feeding.
27. **Emergency preparedness and response:** The support plan of the DNPGCCA guides food security interventions resulting from shocks and WFP's crisis response and lean season interventions.
28. The **National Gender Policy** (2008) is based on four strategic axes: i) promotion of an equitable situation and social position of women and men in the family and in the community; ii) promotion of equitable potential and position of women and men in the household and the market economy; iii) strengthening the effective implementation of the rights of women and girls, the fight against gender-based violence and the equitable

³⁷ Programme Intégré de Résilience à l'insécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle – Pro-Résilience 2019-2021

³⁸ An initiative undertaken by the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and its six-member countries with support from the World Bank and the French Development Agency. It aims to empower Lake Chad communities to adapt to the urgent development challenges exacerbated by climate change, and to contribute to regional food security.

participation of men and women in the management of power; and iv) reinforcement of the intervention capacities of the institutional framework for the implementation of the policy.

29. At an operational level, **the *Communes de Convergence (C2C)*** approach guides coordination and coherence in the field, using the municipality as an entry point for interventions in line with the Government's decentralization policy.

➤ ***United Nations and other partners***

30. The 2019-2021 UNDAF has three strategic axes: 1) resilience building, 2) governance, peace and security, and 3) social development and the demographic dividend.

31. At a regional level, the United Nations Support Plan for the Sahel (2018-2022) articulates and operationalizes the United Nations support to the Governments' priorities and to regional organizations. Building on the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), this plan aligns to the Sustainable Development Agenda with focus on addressing the challenges to peace, security and development in the region.

32. Other joint programmes and initiatives relate to gender equality and women's empowerment, resilience, the SUN movement, UN joint team on HIV/AIDS and the Education for All Initiative.

33. As co-lead of the food security thematic group, WFP and FAO are expected to actively contribute to the implementation of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). WFP also leads a Supply Chain Working Group where the United Nations agencies, national and international NGOs, and other institutions share information and discuss approaches to address supply chain challenges.

34. WFP will ensure that its dual mandate and comparative advantage significantly contribute to operationalizing the New Way of Working (NWoW) and enhance the humanitarian-peace-development nexus starting in conflict-affected areas of Diffa and at the border with Mali.

2. STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS FOR WFP

2.1. WFP'S EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS LEARNED

35. WFP has been operating in Niger since 1968, providing relief assistance, livelihood support and humanitarian air services.

36. The following key findings and lessons learned from the implementation of the current project portfolio have been incorporated into the T-ICSP and will inform the CSP:

- The Decentralized Evaluation of PRRO 2009³⁹ showed that WFP's activities remain pertinent and aligned to Government's priorities, despite funding constraints and the multiplication of coordination mechanisms at decentralized levels. Other challenges

³⁹ WFP-Niger, Septembre 2018, « Evaluation à mi-parcours de l'Intervention prolongée de secours et de redressement (IPSR) Niger 200961 (Janvier 2017 – Décembre 2019) et de la dernière année de l'IPSR 200583 (Janvier 2014 – Décembre 2016)».

include insufficient monitoring and evaluation systems, lack of alternative scenarios in the event of large funding gaps resulting in weaker and less effective activities.

- An evaluation on the impact of WFP programmes on nutrition⁴⁰ showed that food assistance for assets (FFA) in combination with MAM treatment and/or prevention programmes significantly reduced the incidence of MAM. Nutrition-sensitive assistance should be included into longer-term, multisector and integrated assistance packages.
- The 2016 regional EMOP 200777 evaluation stressed the importance of targeting host populations alongside internally displaced and repatriated populations to improve equity, protection and financial sustainability within a regional response approach.
- The 2017 study on linkages between FFA activities and women’s empowerment,⁴¹ recognized both men and women beneficiaries perceived an improvement of women’s empowerment and nutritional status owing to WFP’s integrated interventions, among others. Women’s hardship and workload were reduced by men not migrating for work during the dry season⁴².
- Several studies found that, because of WFP interventions, women in the community were empowered and ensured ownership of all the support at community level. Women’s groups participate in local purchase initiatives and school feeding activities in the resilience sites, for example, school feeding activities foster social mobilization at the community level, as men and women come together for the construction of storage, school kitchens.⁴³ The most significant impact of WFP’s resilience approach was the reduction in women’s and men’s migration because it helped to stabilize marriages and translated in improved children’s education. FFAs allowed women to avoid seasonal migration not only because they provide income, but also because they are associated with school feeding activities.
- The Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis⁴⁴ highlighted the advantage of combining interventions to reduce the cost of the diet at the household level, i.e. the combination of three interventions such as nutrition supplementation for 6-23 months children and pregnant and lactating women and girls; school feeding for children 6-11 years and cash transfers for the household.
- Other lessons learned relate to the need for integrated and environmentally friendly and climate sensitive approaches from different innovative initiatives, such as the pilot “adolescent girl” project and local purchases through the Purchase for Africans from Africans also inform the T-ICSP.
- Additional evaluation results which may be used in the implementation of the T-ICSP include evidence from and the Strategic Evaluation of WFP Support to Enhanced Resilience.⁴⁵

2.2. OPPORTUNITIES FOR WFP

37. WFP’s ongoing project portfolio reflects the opportunities brought forward by lessons learned and regular consultations with Government and partners on key areas. These include emergency response and preparedness, nutrition, asset creation, SAMS and school feeding,

⁴⁰ WFP/OEV, 2018: Impact of WFP Programmes on Nutrition in Humanitarian Contexts in the Sahel.

⁴¹ August 2017, WFP, “The potential of Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) to empower women and improve women’s nutrition: a five-country study” <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000023821/download/>

⁴² WFP, Gender, Markets and Empowerment of Women in the Sahel (2017)

⁴³ LASDEL, Study on the impact on Migration and Social Cohesion of WFP’s interventions in Niger (2017)

⁴⁴ WFP, March 2018, Fill the Nutrient Gap presentation.

⁴⁵ Report expected in September 2018

technical and strategic support to the Government, and innovation across which gender is integrated. The ZHSR will allow a further refinement of this spectrum. The two visits undertaken by WFP's Executive Director in Niger in 2018 have helped consolidate relations with the Government translated into a Government- led resilience scale-up plan, which will be based on an operational coalition of actors.

2.3. STRATEGIC CHANGES

38. This one-year T-ICSP brings more coherence and integration between the resilience and crisis response windows while strengthening the humanitarian-development-peace-security nexus, particularly in the Diffa region. The T-ICSP includes a scale-up of resilience activities in Tahoua, Zinder and Maradi regions. WFP will continue to be an important actor in supporting the Government in defining and implementing sustainable gender-responsive social safety nets, while strengthening national capacities including the social safety nets (CFS) cell.

3. WFP STRATEGIC ORIENTATION

3.1 DIRECTION, FOCUS AND INTENDED IMPACTS

39. In line with government priorities and the Regional Resilience Strategy, WFP has progressively adopted an integrated approach combining resilience building with capacity strengthening interventions to help national partners develop and implement sustainable, cost-effective, nationally-owned, gender-responsive safety net and broad-scale resilience models. This approach also addresses the peace-security-development nexus, for which Niger is a role model.

40. The T-ICSP is articulated around six mutually reinforcing strategic outcomes (SOs):

- **SO 1** focuses on assisting crisis-affected populations, including refugees and IDPs, and people affected by shocks to save lives and support early recovery during and in the aftermath of crises. This will be done by delivering emergency food (unconditional and conditional), nutrition assistance (prevention), and emergency school feeding, in a gender- and age-responsive manner.
- **SOs 2, 3 and 4** are part of the resilience-building “integrated package.” WFP will target priority C2Cs providing the same communities with a set of mixed activities through a multi-sector, multi-actor and community-based approach, that tackles the gender inequalities to support sustained outcomes. This will be done through FFA, seasonal food assistance, school feeding, integrated nutrition services, and support to smallholder farmers.
- **SO 5** encompasses all efforts aimed at strengthening government institutions (at central and decentralised levels) to enhance emergency preparedness and response, social protection, and resilience building programmes, that equitably meet the needs and priorities of the different population groups.
- **SO 6** corresponds to the humanitarian flight service operated by UNHAS, essential to ensure swift and safe access to remote areas and other common services for partners, including logistics and ICT.

41. Gender, protection and accountability to affected populations are mainstreamed throughout the T-ICSP. All activities will integrate and comply with environmental and social standards in line with WFP Environmental Policy (2017).

3.2 STRATEGIC OUTCOMES, FOCUS AREAS, EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND KEY ACTIVITIES

3.2.1 STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1: CRISIS-AFFECTED POPULATIONS, INCLUDING REFUGEES AND IDPS, IN TARGETED AREAS ARE ABLE TO MEET THEIR BASIC FOOD AND NUTRITION NEEDS DURING AND IN THE AFTERMATH OF CRISES

42. As part of WFP's contribution to the national Support Plan, this SO aims to enable crisis-affected populations in Diffa, Tillaberi and Tahoua regions to meet their basic food and nutrition needs. It also includes a contingency for sudden displacement, as part of WFP's contribution to the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM).⁴⁶
43. Where feasible, relief will be implemented as part of a longer-term strategy to enhance self-reliance and strengthen livelihoods in a gender-transformative manner while strengthening the relief-development-peace-security nexus.

➤ *Focus Area*

Crisis response

➤ *Expected outputs*

- Crisis-affected beneficiaries (Tier 1) receive timely and adequate food/CBT to meet their food and nutrition requirements
- Crisis-affected beneficiaries (Tier 1) receive timely and adequate food/CBT to support early recovery
- Crisis-affected children attending school (Tier 1) receive timely and adequate school meals to meet their food requirements
- Crisis-affected children (Tier 1) receive adequate and timely specialized nutritious food to prevent MAM (SR 2)

➤ *Key activities*

ACTIVITY 1: Provide assistance to crisis-affected populations, including refugees and IDPs, through food assistance (unconditional and conditional), emergency school meals and specialized nutritious food to children for malnutrition prevention.

44. Based on sectorial analysis, through this activity, targeted men and women, girls and boys will benefit equitably from a combination of unconditional cash and in-kind transfers including Super Cereal to meet their food and nutrition needs. Should conditions allow, after the first three months of assistance and in line with current programmes and plans in conflict-affected regions, WFP will gradually increase conditional transfers through FFA to foster early recovery and help progressively build assets, support self-reliance and contribute to better social cohesion between host populations and IDPs/refugees. Since 2018, longer-term Malian refugees are assisted through targeted conditional transfers.

⁴⁶ RRM is led by OCHA and UNICEF, and financially supported by ECHO. WFP and International NGOs (ACTED, DRC, IRC, ACF) are RRM partners.

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45. Pre-primary and primary school children in emergency schools in Diffa region will receive school feeding to enhance their food and nutrition status and access to education. Hot meals will be provided to some 25,000 male and female IDP children (in equal ratio) in 176 schools that have been relocated to safer areas. Complementary activities (WASH, SBCC, and others) will be provided in partnership with other actors and through WFP existing activities under SOs 2 and 3.
 46. Malnutrition prevention package for children 6-23 months in targeted households consists of a daily ration of Super Cereal Plus, active Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening for acute malnutrition in children aged 6-59 months, referrals to health centres and key family practices sensitisation sessions, specifically IYCF in emergency at distribution sites.
 47. The emergency nutrition, school feeding and FFA support will be implemented with similar activities under SO2, 3 and 4, across which gender is integrated to address the inequalities and support changes.
 48. Targeted areas are Diffa region (refugees, IDPs, returnees and host populations), two refugee sites in Tillaberi, one refugee site in Tahoua and areas hosting newly displaced populations in Tillaberi and Tahoua regions. During the lean season (June-September), WFP will also provide targeted unconditional transfers for severely food insecure people in extremely vulnerable regions affected by acute shocks (lean season response).
 49. Key partners include ECHO Alliance, OCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR, DNPGCCA, DEVCO, Spain, Switzerland, France, the World Bank, national and international NGOs (including RRM partners), and the ICRC. While DNPGCCA is involved in planning and delivering food assistance within the framework of the *Plan de Soutien*, strategic partnerships are sought with NGOs and United Nations agencies for greater impact.

3.2.2 STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2: FOOD INSECURE PRIMARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN, IN TARGETED REGIONS HAVE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD ALL YEAR-ROUND

➤ *Outcome description*

50. This SO aims to ensure that every child particularly from the poorest households has access to primary education and improved health and nutrition. As part of the integrated resilience package, WFP prioritises primary schools in the most vulnerable areas, along with the girls and boys at heightened risk of being subjected to harmful practices and insecurity.

➤ *Focus Area*

Resilience building

➤ *Expected outputs*

- Children attending school (Tier 1) receive timely and adequate school feeding to meet their food requirements and support school attendance.

Key activities

ACTIVITY 2: Provide school feeding to vulnerable children during the school year, in a way that is gender-equitable and relies on and stimulates local production (home-grown school feeding)

51. The school feeding package is implemented in line with the National Strategy on School Feeding and the National Strategy for Local Purchase from Smallholder Farmers, which foster home-grown solutions. Activities consist of distribution of school meals in prioritized schools in selected communes⁴⁷ across the country, and CBT in selected areas.⁴⁸ Interventions will be complemented by gender-transformative and nutrition-sensitive activities in and around the schools (deworming, school gardens, distribution of mills and of goats/sheep for women’s community groups, and communication for development). These activities will benefit primarily women in the communities contributing to their economic empowerment, promoting food diversification while supporting their children in schools through increased income. These activities constitute also an entry point for information, education and communication related to gardening, food and the environment, and broader SBCC by integrating awareness-raising on key family practices, gender equality, nutrition, reproductive health including HIV/AIDS and diet diversification. WFP will work with UNICEF and other partners to ensure a WASH package is provided where most in need. Cooks and school feeding committees, represented equally by men and women, will be trained on safe food handling and storage. Beside WFP, school feeding is also implemented in different geographical areas by the Government and some NGOs.
52. School feeding is also linked to the “Support to Smallholder Farmers” component under SO4 to promote local purchase and food production from smallholder farmers, especially targeting women to address the gender inequalities that undermine food security. The adolescent girls’ initiative under SO3, is linked closely to SO2 and aims at improving girls’ nutrition and schooling while preventing girl marriage and pregnancy.
53. WFP will invest in reinforcing policy coherence and country capacity strengthening including through South-South Cooperation for the implementation of a sustainable nationally-led school feeding programme. As part of this plan, WFP will contribute to: i) strengthening the delivery of national programmes; ii) the review of the national school feeding strategy; iii) the formulation and adoption of a national law on school feeding; iv) resource mobilization; v) capacity building in the area of gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation and support in the establishment of a database; vi) inclusion of community participation; vii) capacity building on the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee and of a decentralized school feeding model.

3.2.3 STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3: NUTRITIONALLY VULNERABLE GROUPS INCLUDING CHILDREN, PREGNANT AND ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN TARGETED AREAS HAVE ENHANCED NUTRITIONAL STATUS ALL YEAR-ROUND

➤ OUTCOME DESCRIPTION

54. In collaboration with the Government and other partners, WFP will provide an integrated package of nutrition-specific, nutrition-sensitive and age-specific complementary activities

⁴⁷ Priority is given to schools located in the *Communes de Convergence* as the resilience integrated approach requires a convergence of all activities.

⁴⁸ In 2018, WFP started to pilot direct cash transfers to schools to better link school meals to local producers.

to address the immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition. Interventions include promotion of improved WASH practices, family planning and PMTCT⁴⁹ services, early identification and treatment of infectious diseases, vaccination and deworming, capacity development for community IYCF groups, support for child protection and early development, and promotion of SBCC. Children aged 6-23 months, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls in areas with high malnutrition rates are the target beneficiary groups.

55. WFP will also enhance national counterparts' capacities, particularly the Ministry of Health to implement country-led nutrition interventions. Findings from the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) analysis and the Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) will further inform and refine government's interventions as indicated in the plan of action of the National Nutrition security policy.

➤ ***Focus Area***

Resilience building

➤ ***Expected outputs***

- Targeted children aged 6-23 months and pregnant women and girls (Tier 1) receive adequate and timely specialized nutritious food to treat moderate acute malnutrition
- Targeted children aged 6-23 months (Tier 1) receive adequate and timely specialized nutritious food to prevent malnutrition/stunting, wasting and micronutrient deficiencies
- Targeted women and adolescent girls, men and boys (Tier 1) receive social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) to improve nutrition-related practices and prevent malnutrition
- Targeted adolescent girls (Tier 1) receive cash grants, SBCC and micronutrient supplements to help break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition and maintain girls in school

Key activities

ACTIVITY 3: Provide malnutrition treatment and prevention (including SBCC and food fortification) services to children aged 6-23 months and pregnant women, and cash grants to adolescent girls

Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition

56. WFP will work with the Government through the Directorate of Nutrition, local communities, NGOs and UNICEF to provide SBCC and a malnutrition treatment package of screening, nutrition supplementation to moderately malnourished children aged 6 to 23 months and to malnourished pregnant women and girls through nutritional centres (CRENAM) managed by the Ministry of Health. Caregivers of severely malnourished children admitted in stabilisation centres for medical complications will also receive food support.

⁴⁹ Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission

Prevention of malnutrition/stunting, wasting and micronutrient deficiencies

○ Preventive activities⁵⁰

57. Nutrition-specific interventions for the prevention of malnutrition are provided through Blanket Supplementary Feeding (BSF) programme to children aged 6–23 months in targeted zones and through SO1 (in addition to the family GFD/FFA package for the duration of assistance), and SO4 (combined with seasonal transfers for June-September). Community health workers will identify and refer children with severe acute malnutrition to health facilities for appropriate treatment.

58. The BSF programme will be used to deliver complementary and community-based nutrition-sensitive interventions in collaboration with different partners.

○ Community-based activities

59. Malnutrition prevention and treatment will be conducted at the community levels to enable timely assistance and reinforce community ownership. Community-based activities will focus particularly on immediate caregivers of children – mothers and fathers – and will be conducted at integrated sites. Families will be trained on early detection of malnutrition cases of their children using MUAC tapes. Community health workers (CHWs) will be trained in systematic sex- and age-disaggregated MUAC screening (including analysis), follow-up for children with MAM, and the referral of children with SAM. Improvements in MUAC screening will inform national nutrition monitoring systems.

60. CHWs and local partners will be supported to provide community outreach and gender- and age-tailored SBCC to women and men to build community understanding of the causes, impacts and prevention of malnutrition and impulse positive action.

61. Partnership will be strengthened with Government, United Nations agencies, and NGOs to implement these activities.

○ SBCC

62. WFP will focus on SBCC to encourage the consumption of nutritious foods and diet diversification, IYCF and maternal practices combined with nutrition education to improve health and nutrition outcomes. A formative research and impact pathway will be designed to help identify the bottlenecks and ways to improve the quality of SBCC targeting men, boys, women and girls with respect to their influence on the provision of nutritious foods, gender equitable roles and appropriate feeding practices of pregnant women and girls, and children under 2.

63. WFP will partner with the Government, United Nations agencies (especially UNICEF), NGOs, communities and radio stations at the national and communal levels for the elaboration, production and dissemination of appropriate nutrition and health messages.

○ Adolescent girls' strategy

64. This strategy aims at breaking the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition, improving girls' school enrolment, reducing girl pregnancy and marriage and enhancing their nutritional status. Implemented with the Government, UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO and UN Women, the

⁵⁰ Preventive activities include BSF, SBCC, active screening and referrals.

strategy focuses on education, nutrition and awareness-raising for behaviour change among adolescent boys and girls. Cash grants target adolescent girls (aged 10 to 19 years) attending school; sensitization and awareness-raising will target boys and girls and their communities and provide messaging on nutrition, nutrition-sensitive practices, life skills, education, harmful practices such as girl marriage and pregnancies, HIV/AIDS, etc. Iron folic acid, provided by UNICEF, is distributed to all adolescent girls during the lean season, along with awareness-raising materials.

○ **Local production of fortified food**

65. Food fortification will aim at reducing micronutrient deficiencies by ensuring the availability of fortified food at the community level targeting particularly vulnerable children, pregnant and lactating women and girls. Support will be provided to community-based associations, with equal participation of women and men, on reduction of post-harvest losses, transformation and fortification of local nutritious foods, development of quality systems including the creation of a certification system and a label. Retail outlets will be set up to enable people in targeted communities to purchase fortified foods at affordable prices. National laboratories will be supported to improve capacity in fortification analysis, food safety and quality.
66. This activity will be implemented with the Government, United Nations agencies, the European Union and other donors, NGOs and community-based associations.

3.2.4 STRATEGIC OUTCOME 4: FOOD INSECURE POPULATIONS AND COMMUNITIES EXPOSED TO CLIMATE SHOCKS IN TARGETED AREAS HAVE MORE RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS ALL YEAR-ROUND

➤ ***OUTCOME DESCRIPTION***

67. Interventions under this SO combine conditional transfers (FFA) of food/CBT for three to seven months to cover the immediate food needs of poor households while investing in (re)building household and community assets, which are equally accessed by and beneficial to women and men. During the four-month lean season, WFP will provide unconditional transfers to ensure that the same people remain on the land they recuperated and produce their crops. Additional interventions consist in implementing climate risk management measures and local purchases, through an integrated and equitable community-based approach.

➤ ***Focus Area***

Resilience building

➤ ***Expected outputs***

- Targeted beneficiaries (Tier 1) receive timely and adequate FFA transfers (conditional) to meet their short-term food needs while improving their livelihoods' resilience
- Targeted populations (Tier 2) benefit from the assets built or restored to improve their resilience to natural shocks and adaptation to climate change

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- Targeted smallholders and other actors along the value chain (Tier 1) benefit from strengthened technical capacities to improve livelihoods, including in relation to home-grown school feeding
 - Targeted beneficiaries (Tier 1) receive timely and adequate food/CBT (unconditional) to meet their food and nutrition requirements and improve their resilience to natural shocks and adaptation to climate change

➤ **Key activities**

ACTIVITY 4: Provide livelihood support to food insecure and at-risk people, including the development or rehabilitation of natural and productive assets (FFA), climate risk management measures, smallholder farmer support, through an integrated community-based approach.

68. Targeting the same communities, in the C2Cs, this activity is articulated around the following components:

○ **Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)**

69. WFP will support asset creation which is designed to be gender-transformative, nutrition, and climate-sensitive. Activities will be identified through the Three-Pronged Approach (3PA), equally involving men and women to achieve greater impact and ensure shared ownership. Assets created and restored include water management, rehabilitation of degraded land, crop production and fruit tree farming. Through FFA, WFP supports very economically poor beneficiaries, especially women, to secure land lease agreements through land commissions. In partnership with FAO, IFAD and other actors, these activities will also increase access to technologies and markets, particularly for marginalised women and youth.

70. WFP will improve on key technical capacities at field level to improve quality and sustainability of works, in collaboration with national universities, the Network of Agricultural Chambers (RECA) and research institutions.

71. WFP also builds on partnerships with the Rome-Based Agencies (RBAs), Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced (RISE) partners, USAID, Canada and Germany. WFP will support the Government to scale up its land rehabilitation programmes and provide a model for quality productive safety nets, including those supported by the DNGPCCA/CFS.

○ **Climate risk management measures**

72. WFP will contribute to reinforcing national capacities to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate risks, including increased protection of livelihoods. Key actions include awareness-raising, strengthening capacities at all levels, improving early warning systems, piloting new tools and services (such as climate insurance and services for individual farmers, ensuring access for women and men), and promoting integrated climate-sensitive methodologies.⁵¹

73. WFP builds on partnerships with Norway and Sweden (for training of employees) and may seek to access the Green Climate Fund.

○ **Smallholder farmer support**

⁵¹ These include the watershed approach and climate-resilient techniques that address vulnerability and mitigate the effects of climate change.

74. WFP leverages its purchasing power to support smallholder farmers' access to markets while promoting production and consumption of nutritious foods, through local purchases which currently concern cereals and cowpeas, which are distributed primarily to schools. Arrangements are made for local procurement of fortified foods⁵² and for linking smallholder farmer support to food fortification (SO3). A stronger strategy for support to smallholder farmers will be developed as part of the CSP to ensure a better integration of this component with FFA.
75. WFP supply chain will continue supporting smallholder farmers and their associations through technical, material and training assistance on a) purchase of goods, materials, equipment and services required for livelihood support activities; b) storage facilities and management; c) planning and contracting; d) food quality and safety⁵³; e) market access including market information sharing (through VAM); f) improved access to transportation and market linkage to WFP's school feeding and other institutional procurement. These will lead to improving agricultural productivity, reducing post-harvest loss and strengthening farmer associations' capacity and management.
76. South-South Cooperation is a key pillar and a proven catalyst to scale-up this activity, particularly under smallholder market support (SAMS) programmes, and Brazil's and China's Centres of Excellence. Strong partnerships are established with FAO and IFAD, professional and smallholder farmer organisations, the RECA, the Government, the private sector, among others.

ACTIVITY 5: Provide seasonal food/CBT assistance to food insecure populations

77. In line with the resilience strategy, during the four-month lean season, WFP will provide unconditional food/CBT assistance to the same beneficiaries who receive assistance through FFA and the 'integrated package', to reduce the impact of seasonal stresses and protect livelihood investments during the lean season.

3.2.5 STRATEGIC OUTCOME 5: NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS HAVE STRENGTHENED CAPACITIES TO MANAGE GENDER EQUITABLE FOOD-SECURITY, NUTRITION, AND SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES BY 2030

➤ ***OUTCOME DESCRIPTION***

78. This SO aims at strengthening national institutions' capacities to manage gender-responsive food-security, nutrition, social protection programmes, emergency and preparedness systems by 2030. This will be done by strengthening: (i) programme planning and design, (ii) coordination mechanisms, (iii) policy coherence, and (iv) knowledge management. WFP's long-term vision is to shift from food assistance to policy engagement and capacity development for a gradual handover, leading to nationally-owned and gender-responsive cost-effective food and nutrition safety nets.

➤ ***Focus Area***

Resilience building

Expected outputs

⁵² i.e. 730 mt of Plumpy'Sup procured from *Société de Transformation Alimentaire* (STA) Niger in 2016.

⁵³ The quality control is managed by a professional inspector and qualified staff and it consists of monitoring of the re-bagging, sampling and/or lab analysis.

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- Food-insecure people (Tier 3) benefit from strengthened emergency preparedness and response, social protection and resilience building programmes to receive timely assistance from the government, WFP and partners
 - Food-insecure people (Tier 3) benefit from strengthened evidence and knowledge by the Government to support decision making through scalable, cost effective, equitable and efficient models

➤ **Key activities**

ACTIVITY 6: Provide capacity strengthening to inter-sectorial national institutions on: (i) planning, (ii) coordination mechanisms, (iii) policy coherence, and (iv) knowledge management.

79. This activity will strengthen national and sub-national institutions' capacities to tackle food insecurity and malnutrition. These interventions will complement all other activities of this T-ICSP and will be coordinated with those of other United Nations agencies and partners. Normative support on gender-transformative food security, nutrition, resilience, social protection and policy coherence will be a priority

80. Capacity strengthening activities will focus on:

- Scaling-up resilience building activities (3PA, integrated packages of interventions, FFA, etc.) and supporting the I3N and other line ministries (Agriculture, Environment, Community Development, etc.), in collaboration with United Nations agencies (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, etc.) and NGOs.
- Enhancing emergency preparedness and response (analyses, transfer modalities, etc.), and supporting the DNP-GCA, in collaboration with other humanitarian actors (UN, NGOs, UNHCR, OCHA, etc.). This includes providing technical support to national and sub-national institutions to develop and manage country-led emergency, preparedness and response.
- Consolidating the national social protection system, led by the DNP-GCA and I3N, in collaboration with all key actors (World Bank, UNICEF, FAO, etc.). This (which is a long-term activity) will be done a) through policy support/advice on nutrition, gender-responsive and food security-sensitive social protection aligned with the I3N framework on food and nutrition security⁵⁴ and b) by managing and sharing knowledge, expertise and technology while capitalizing on and replicating integrated models – including from WFP's resilience programme – to strengthen Government's capacities towards nationally owned and led social safety nets.
- Providing enabling engagement to governmental institutions, partners and private sector, through technical, material assistance and partnerships, including South-South cooperation, to enhance their supply chain capacity on related policy, strategy, institutional structuring and accountability, knowledge/information management, and supply chain practices and management. This includes enhancing supply chain capacity of a) national health supply chain (Ministry of Health), d) national school feeding programme (Ministry of Education), e) value chain promotion (Ministry of Agriculture); f) early warning, disaster risk reduction & emergency preparedness (DNP-GCCA and other partners involved); and g) capacity support to other institutions and to the private sector.

⁵⁴ I3N Action Plan 2016-2020)

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- WFP will work with other United Nations agencies and partners to where possible optimize supply chain resources (e.g. LTAs for common goods and services, shared storage, equipment) and support strengthening national supply chain systems in a coordinated manner.

81. Programme quality and efficiency, synergies and cross-fertilization, evidence-building, research, and knowledge management and sharing, with integration of core cross-cutting concerns, such as gender inequalities, will receive special attention. Partnerships will include technical, academic and research institutions, and South–South and triangular cooperation.

3.2.6 STRATEGIC OUTCOME 6: HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS HAVE ACCESS TO COMMON SERVICES TO ACCESS AND OPERATE IN TARGETED AREAS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

➤ Outcome description

82. WFP will contribute to the provision of common services with other United Nations and other humanitarian partners to partners to optimize economy of scale, reduce transaction costs, and facilitate timely access to targeted areas.

➤ Focus Areas

Crisis Response

➤ Expected outputs

- Affected populations targeted by humanitarian partners using WFP timely and cost-saving services (Tier 3) are served to address their needs

➤ Key activities

ACTIVITY 7: Provide UNHAS flight services to partners, to access areas of humanitarian interventions.

83. Security constraints and the lack of adequate road infrastructure in some localities make access difficult or impossible during the rainy season. UNHAS will continue to support humanitarian activities in Niger and the sub-regions by providing safe, efficient and cost-effective air transportation, and guarantee medical and security evacuations as necessary. To ensure synergy and economies of scale, a coordinated approach will be adopted with other air service providers, such as ICRC in load capacity co-sharing.

84. In 2018, UNHAS in Niger serves seven destinations (Niamey, Maradi, Zinder, Diffa, Tahoua, Agadez and Dirkou) for 120 user organizations.

ACTIVITY 8: Provide logistics services to partners to address problems of accessibility when delivering humanitarian assistance.

85. WFP Supply Chain (SC) supports the Government in transferring skills and know-how to government institutions and United Nations agencies and other humanitarian organizations. This also includes provision of services when appropriate. A capacity assessment is being carried out in 2018 and will inform on priority actions to maximize impact and resource utilization for institutional strengthening in the supply chain.

86. The SC capacity strategy includes:

- Strengthening capacity on emergency preparedness and knowledge sharing at central and regional levels.
- Improving public health supply chain through the Supply Chain Optimization through Logistics Visibility and Evolution (SOLVE) initiative.
- Supporting the Global Fund to improve supply chain performance for the distribution of non-food items and drugs for malaria, HIV and tuberculosis. A study has been launched to identify obstacles that are encountered in storage and particularly for “last mile” deliveries.
- Knowledge sharing and coordination within the national Supply Chain Working Group, led by WFP.

87. Common services include the management of common premises in Diffa, Zinder and guest houses in Diffa and Nguigmi to ensure WFP and other United Nations partners have a cost-effective, safe and secured workplace, as well as long and short term well-equipped accommodation facilities for all development partners. WFP, as chair of the ICT working group, will work with the United Nations agencies, including UNDSS, to ensure the provision of adequate 24x7 Inter-Agency security telecommunications and data voice services. WFP will lead and provide necessary support to United Nations, government and non-government bodies in areas, such as WFP’s beneficiary management system (SCOPE), CBT, data collection/surveys and mobile data collection and analysis with innovative technologies.

3.3 TRANSITION AND EXIT STRATEGIES

88. WFP will increasingly focus on wider national system strengthening to ensure an effective integration of WFP’s interventions into government-led adaptive safety net and resilience building efforts and the gradual handover of activities. This will contribute to strengthening the Government’s capacity to operationalize social protection, disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness systems in a gender-responsive manner.

89. WFP is also investing in environmental rehabilitation and climate risk issues, strengthening disaster risk reduction and preparedness with a focus on gender-transformative climate services and adaptation projects.

90. At the community level, WFP will facilitate the empowerment of the most vulnerable women and men through inclusive, participatory processes. A graduation model is being scaled up to replicate positive trends and identify households, where WFP assistance has facilitated progression out of poverty, and to establish the foundation for progressive withdrawal and/or reorientation of assistance.

91. WFP will pursue direct implementation of school feeding but will increasingly focus on capacity strengthening to increase local purchases from smallholder farmers (under Activity 4), focusing particularly on women to tackle gender inequalities.

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92. WFP will pursue its current interventions with a stronger focus on gender-responsive SBCC and nutrition sensitivity, by enhancing prevention and nutrition-sensitivity in its programmes and increasingly focusing on adolescent girls in partnership with actors at the national level. Ongoing strategic discussions with UNICEF are calling for a simplified supply chain for GAM treatment. This approach may be piloted in 2019.
 93. An extension of the services to other areas such as logistics could be envisaged, especially as the Humanitarian Reform will accelerate the Delivering as One approach.

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 BENEFICIARY ANALYSIS

94. The resilience integrated package (outcomes 2 to 4) is based on the 3PA. The ICA is used to target chronically vulnerable areas where WFP resilience programmes can build on existing strategic partnerships for development. In line with the C2C approach, activities are geographically concentrated to ensure critical mass and significant change at the community and municipal levels. The sequence and combination of activities, and partnerships required will be identified through seasonal livelihood programming and community-based participatory planning.
95. Operational targeting is based on the household economy approach (HEA) to identify very poor households; specific analyses, including through women-only focus group discussions during the HEA process, community-based participatory planning in the context of the 3PA and additional gender analyses will support in identifying and responding to the specific needs of women, men, girls and boys. Selected households will receive the integrated resilience package for the duration of the T-ICSP. Targeting of refugees and IDPs will be based on vulnerability and household capacity.
96. School feeding will target priority integrated sites in C2Cs, assisting children who attend primary schools identified as priorities in the Government's national school feeding strategy. Attention will be given to nomadic schoolchildren, adolescent girls and poor women to support their empowerment through complementary activities.
97. MAM treatment targets the entire country; in case of funding constraints priority will be given to regions/health districts with GAM rates >15 percent or >10 percent with aggravating factors (such as high MAM caseloads and emergency zones due to insecurity). Malnutrition prevention and nutrition-sensitive activities will be implemented in the priority C2Cs.
98. Targeting of capacity development beneficiaries will be based on capacity assessments. A national social protection system will prioritize coordination and coherence with partners including the development of a unified social registry that WFP is supporting with ECHO, the World Bank and other partners.
99. WFP will maintain countrywide response capacity for emergencies through contingency stocks and related mechanisms, such as the RRM. The targeting process is community-based using the HEA tools and will be adapted particularly to emergency contexts to reduce errors of inclusion and exclusion and with attention to protection and accountability to affected populations.

100.WFP will complete beneficiaries' registration through SCOPE data collection in 2018 combined with the training of government technical services and cooperating partners.

TABLE 1: FOOD & CASH TRANSFER BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME & ACTIVITY						
Strategic Outcome	Activities	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
SO1	ACTIVITY 1	136,013	138,372	105,166	97,309	476,860
SO2	ACTIVITY 2	76,336	77,642	59,054	54,538	267,570
SO3	ACTIVITY 3	322,494	179,392	249,483	126,009	877,378
SO4	ACTIVITY 4	130,924	133,164	101,284	93,537	458,909
	ACTIVITY 5	130,924	133,164	101,284	93,537	458,909
TOTAL	Without overlap	665,767	528,570	514,987	371,393	2,080,717

4.2 TRANSFERS

4.2.1 FOOD AND CASH-BASED TRANSFERS

TABLE 1: FOOD RATION (g/person/day) or CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUE (US\$/person/day) BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY	STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1				STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2			STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3				STRATEGIC OUTCOME 4		
	ACTIVITY 1				ACTIVITY 2			ACTIVITY 3				ACT. 4		ACTIVITY 5
BENEFICIARY TYPE	IDP, REFUGEE, VULNERABLE POPULATIONS	IDP, REFUGEE, VULNERABLE POPULATIONS	CHILDREN 6-23 MONTHS	PRE-PRIMARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN (Diffa)	PRIMARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN	PRIMARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN	PRIMARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN	CHILDREN 6-23 MONTHS	PREGNANT WOMEN	CAREGIVERS THERAPEUTIC FEEDING	Adolescent girls	VERY POOR HOUSEHOLDS INTEGRATED SITES	VERY POOR HOUSEHOLDS INTEGRATED SITES	CHILDREN 6-23 MONTHS INTEGRATED SITES
MODALITY	GFD	FFA	BSF	ESM	SM SEDENTARY SCHOOLS	SM NOMADIC SCHOOLS	SM Voucher	MAM treatment	MAM treatment	Caregivers	Adolescent girls	FFA	Seasonal transfers	BSF
1Cereals	350	350		295	250	250				350		300	350	
Pulses	60	60		60	50	50				60		60	60	
Vegetable oil	35	35		35	30	30	30		25	35		35	35	
Super Cereal (with sugar)	50	50		80	50	50	50		250	50		50	50	
Super Cereal Plus			200											200
Salt	5	5		4	5	5	5			5		5	5	
Plumpy'Sup								100						
Total (g/person/day)	500	500	200	474	385	385	85	100	275	500		450	500	200
Total kcal/day	2,064	2,064	787	1943	1577	1577		535	1175	2,064		1835	2,064	787

% kcal from protein	11,7	11,7	16,6	12,1	11,8	11,8		10,5	13,2	11,7		11,8	11,7	16,6
% kcal from fat	24,2	24,2	23,2	26,1	26,4	26,4		59	34,9	24,2		25,7	24,2	23,2
Cash-based transfer														
(USD/person/day)	0.405	0.405				0.28	0.28				0.267	0.405		
Number of feeding days per month	30	25	30	20	20	30	20/30	30	30	21	30	25	30	30
Number of months per year	3-12	8	3-12	9	9	9	9	3	6	1	9	FROM 1 TO 7	3	3

TABLE 3: TOTAL FOOD/CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS & VALUE		
Food type / cash-based transfer	Total (MT)	Total (USD)
Cereals	39,693	15,998,517
Pulses	7,238	3,672,706
Oil and Fats	5,435	5,289,209
Mixed and Blended	41,666	63,533,630
Others	651	98,881
TOTAL (Food)	94,683	88,592,944
Cash Based Transfer & Comm. Vouchers		52,815,775
TOTAL (Food and CBT value - USD)	94,683	141,408,719

101. Proposed rations meet the nutritional needs of households in terms of quality and quantity. Super Cereal and iodized salt will ensure minimum intake of micronutrients to combat deficiencies. The school feeding ration is designed to address the specificities of the country, the alignment to the Government strategy and the operations evaluations which recommended the adoption of 2 meals per day in sedentary areas and three meals per day in nomadic areas.⁵⁵ Possible gender-related impacts of different transfer modalities will be assessed through post-distribution monitoring.

4.2.2 CAPACITY STRENGTHENING INCLUDING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

102. This T-ICSP places a strong focus on capacity strengthening. A specific strategic outcome has been included to ensure strategic investments are made in capacity strengthening of national and civil society partners to help the communities lead and sustain their own efforts to achieve SDG 2, in ways that are effective, equitable and empowering. South-South and triangular cooperation will constitute an important pillar within this framework, as developed in the partnership section.

4.3 SUPPLY CHAIN

103. Supply chain role will be expanded during this T-ICSP, including logistics, retail assessment, procurement options analysis, supply chain continuity and monitoring, contracting food and CBT modality selection.

104. The T-ICSP covers all eight regions of Niger, and WFP has a Delivery Point (DP) in each regional capital (Agadez, Diffa, Dosso, Maradi, Niamey, Tahoua, Tillabéry and Zinder). WFP has a total owned (with the Government of Niger) storage capacity of about 30,500 mt, which can increase by about 60,000 mt through rental agreements.

105. A co-management protocol exists between WFP and the Government of Niger through which WFP trains the government storekeepers to manage commodities and transport. WFP is also focusing on logistics emergency preparedness training for government storekeepers as well as for humanitarian and private sector partners.

⁵⁵ The 2018 FNG analysis indicates that for sedentary populations, current school meals reduce the daily cost of nutritious food for a 6- to 7-year-old child by more than 64 percent. Because meals for nomadic children already cover a larger part of their needs (3 meals received against 2 for sedentary), reducing the cost of nutritious food for children aged 6 to 7 receiving these 3 meals is even more important."

106. The operation combines local, regional and international food purchases. Local purchases concern cereals, pulses, salt, fortified flours and Supplementary Plumpy. Regional purchases concern cereals, and salt⁵⁶.

107. School feeding commodities are delivered to schools directly by the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Health delivers the commodities to the nutrition centres. Food for assets and unconditional transfers are mostly transported directly by cooperating partners. Deliveries for schools and nutrition, characterized by small volumes are often delivered to multiple sites therefore the price per mt is higher. Higher prices are paid during the rainy season (June to September) to account for alternative deliveries, as many sites become inaccessible by truck.

4.4 COUNTRY OFFICE CAPACITY AND PROFILE

108. The scale-up of resilience activities in the second semester 2018 has brought about some structural changes that will be reflected in the budget.

4.5 PARTNERSHIPS

109. WFP Niger has put partnerships at the heart of its programme to support nationally owned hunger solutions. The implementation of this T-ICSP will rely on a broad range of partnerships:

- **Government.** The partnership with Government is central to WFP's partnership strategy. WFP will provide policy advice, support capacity development, and support the Government to plan, coordinate and scale up the response by providing effective and efficient models and by supporting implementation when needed.
- **United Nations system.** The 'Communes de Convergence approach' continues to offer WFP an entry point to operationalize United Nations programming. Particularly, WFP will strengthen its partnerships with the RBAs and other United Nations agencies, such as UNHCR or UNICEF. WFP will pursue its involvement on key joint initiatives and projects (SUN UN network, Food for Peace, Economic Empowerment of Rural Women and joint resilience strengthening programmes in priority municipalities).
- **NGOs and gender-equality committed and competent civil society organizations.** In addition to its operational partnerships linked to programme implementation, WFP will coordinate with the European Commission Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) funded NGO Alliance and provide technical support for food security interventions, including during the lean season. WFP will continue to be part of the RISE partnership, that aims to address the root causes of persistent vulnerability, as well as the Sahel Resilience Learning (SAREL) Project. WFP actively supports the humanitarian reform agenda, acting as co-lead of the Food Security Cluster with FAO and participating in the cluster system.
- **Academic, research and technical institutions.** Knowledge-based partnerships are an essential pillar of the strategy to ensure that proposed hunger solutions address the consequences and the causes of hunger, for the diverse population groups, and that the organization is providing effective, efficient and equitable assistance. Areas of

⁵⁶ The cargo of salt will travel by road from Dakar to Niamey through Mali and Burkina, with a transit time of about 20 days, while cereals from Burkina Faso take on average 2 or 3 days by road

focus include agriculture, education, gender equality, socio-anthropology, environment and climate change, and resilience measurement.

- ***South-South and triangular cooperation.*** WFP is committed to facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation to mobilize knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how in various areas. The Centre of Excellence Against Hunger will continue to be a key partner.
- ***Technical and financial partners.*** WFP will strengthen its collaboration with technical and financial partners to address areas outside of its mandate, such as water, sanitation and hygiene, microfinance, health, sexual and gender-based violence and income generation. WFP works to formalize partnerships with development partners such as the World Bank to ensure the gap between immediate and medium-term assistance and long-term sustainable development is bridged.

5 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION

5.1 MONITORING AND EVALUATION ARRANGEMENTS

110. The existing M&E gender-responsive strategy will be continued under the T-ICSP and improved further to better consider qualitative indicators for measuring the impact of resilience building to improve the operation and contribute to the broader reflection on the 2030 Agenda. For example, in the framework of the 5-year RBA resilience project, the three agencies have developed a joint, gender-responsive monitoring system considering agency specific and cross-cutting aspects.
111. Output monitoring will be conducted through Distribution Monitoring (DM) and Food Basket Monitoring (FBM), as well as reports by cooperating partners after each round of distributions throughout the year. Where possible, output monitoring will be implemented by WFP while in areas with limited access, Third-Party Monitoring (TPM) will be used building on previous experience. Output monitoring results will be produced monthly.
112. Direct outcome monitoring will be ensured through the continuation and expansion of the ‘sentinel households’ approach, which allows WFP to capture the progression of beneficiaries through the monitoring of a constant sample of selected households throughout the project cycle. For unconditional activities, monitoring will be ensured through three rounds of Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) from March to November. The baseline for the T-ICSP will be constituted by the end line of PRRO 200961. Outcomes will be reported on an annual or bi-annual basis.
113. Activities will be carried out by WFP with support from partners such as the National Statistics Institute and in collaboration with other organisations, including United Nations agencies and, for lean season distributions, with international NGOs.
114. Formal partnerships with national institutions and international NGOs will ensure WFP’s participation in technical dialogue and processes to enhance coordination, synergies and measurement of resilience outcomes. Monitoring and evaluation will be aligned with the Corporate Results Framework; new gender and participation indicators will be added to monitoring tools, and staff and expert partners will be trained to assess participation and impacts for women, men, girls and boys, as well as contributions to reducing the gender inequalities. Development of national capacities and alignment of WFP’s framework with national systems will be prioritised through a strategic partnership with government institutions.

115. Existing beneficiary feedback mechanisms through community-based complaints committees will be continued and, where possible, complemented with innovative feedback mechanisms such as the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) already piloted in Diffa region.

5.2 RISK MANAGEMENT

➤ Contextual Risks

116. Contextual risks include epidemics and climate hazards (floods and droughts), social unrest, political instability, resistance to structural and socio-cultural gender-transformative approaches, terrorism which would expose staff and limit or altogether interrupt the conduct of operations or lead to restrictions on humanitarian access. Further, spill-over of violence from neighbouring countries, the intensification of military operations and inter-communal violence may impede the implementation, monitoring and sustainability of T-ICSP activities. Unstable institutions and weak coordination may have an impact on capacity development.

117. Mitigating measures include monitoring and contextual analysis, and security training for staff as well as the increase of the number of local implementing partners which can take over in case WFP cannot access some areas.

➤ Programmatic Risks

118. Programmatic risks include increased food prices on international, local and regional markets and exhaustion of stocks resulting from supply chain breaks or inadequate agricultural production.

119. Further risks include loss of credibility at the national or international level, not reaching objectives, being late in implementing distribution plans, food stocks being diverted, fraud and staff corruption. Reorientation of donor countries towards emerging crises or other global concerns may cause scarcity of funding.

120. Mitigation measures include increased monitoring and evaluation, staff training and sensitization, securing storage sites, and implementing a Zero Tolerance policy towards corruption and fraud.

➤ Institutional Risks

121. Institutional risks include a loss of knowledge if experienced WFP staff move to other agencies.

6 RESOURCES FOR RESULTS

6.1 COUNTRY PORTFOLIO BUDGET

COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN INDICATIVE ANNUAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT (USD)		
	Total	Year 1 2019
TOTAL	265,929,079	265,929,079
SO 1	70,625,855	70,625,855
SO2	25,398,450	25,398,450
SO3	75,372,858	75,372,858
SO 4	76,787,385	76,787,385
SO 5	6,730,317	6,730,317
SO 6	11,014,213	11,014,213

6.2 RESOURCING OUTLOOK

122. Over the last five years (2013-2017) operations in Niger have been funded at an average of 42 percent, with top donors including the USA, the European Commission, Canada, Japan, UN CERF and Germany. Gross requirements for 2018 stand at USD 190,7 million with USD 108,7 million (57 percent) received so far. There is USD 5.2 million in funding opportunities. Should all these funding opportunities be confirmed, the 2018 requirements will be funded at around 60 percent. In case of severe shortfalls, WFP will prioritize life-saving activities under SO1 and SO3, targeting the most vulnerable; a progression strategy is under way to reduce the number of months of assistance and implement complementary activities for beneficiaries under SO4.

123. For 2019, the CO has already forecasted USD 6.3 million (multi-year contributions from Canada, Republic of Korea and Norway). WFP is seeking to enhance partnerships with existing and traditional donors, exploring further funding opportunities to support the current crisis and beyond. Adequate financial resources will be allocated for the implementation of activities advancing gender equality.

6.3 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

124. WFP has adopted a four-fold resource mobilization strategy to:

- a. ***Consolidate partnerships with existing donors.*** By consolidating relationships, new funding sources of traditional donors may also be explored (trust funds or non-explored funding streams). This engagement also includes the mobilization of technical expertise through staff (JPO, fully funded UNV, etc.) or universities, research institutes, etc.) to cover the needs on the soft “SDG 17” support window.
- b. ***Target new public donors, especially more specialized funds and resources.*** WFP Niger will especially target larger scale funding opportunities, such as funds and mechanisms managed by the EU, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, UN managed funds and other funds such as the Green Climate Fund. The recent pledges made at the High-Level Lake Chad Conference in Berlin (Sept/18) constitute an additional opportunity for the humanitarian and development/peace-building response in Diffa region.
- c. ***Engage with non-traditional donors.***

d. ***Position as service provider for Government:*** WFP implements a small share of the funds allocated to Niger by the Global Education Partnership. WFP will look at extending this area where it is considered to have an added value.

e. ***Reach out to the private sector resource mobilization,*** WFP Niger will seek to combine mobilization through global private foundations and private sector companies.

125. An increased investment in communication and visibility actions will be essential in this repositioning and outreach/extension effort, including through new media channels.

**ANNEX I: SUMMARY OF LOGICAL FRAMEWORK OF NIGER
(TRANSITIONAL) INTERIM COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN (YEAR 2019)**

PLEASE SEE SEPARATE LOGICAL FRAMEWORK GENERATED BY COMET.

ANNEX II: INDICATIVE COST BREAKDOWN

INDICATIVE COST BREAKDOWN ALONG STRATEGIC OUTCOMES (USD)								
WFP Results	Strategic	SR 01 SDG 2.1	SR 01 SDG 2.1	SR 02 SDG 2.2	SR 04 SDG 2.4	SR 05 SDG 17.9	SR 08 SDG 17.16	Total
WFP Outcomes	Strategic	Strategic Outcome 01	Strategic Outcome 02	Strategic Outcome 03	Strategic Outcome 04	Strategic Outcome 05	Strategic Outcome 06	
Focus Area		Crisis Response	Resilience Building	Resilience Building	Resilience Building	Resilience Building	Crisis Response	
Transfer		58,158,464	21,448,507	64,946,140	64,441,442	5,978,585	9,247,279	224,220,417
Implementation		5,317,508	1,378,704	2,796,267	4,572,291	70,381	651,899	14,787,049
Direct Support Cost		2,839,385	1 021 099	3,030,230	3,087,098	270,580	442,807	10,691,199
Sub-total		66,315,357	23,848,310	70,772,637	72,100,831	6,319,546	10,341,984	249,698,666
Indirect Support Costs (6,5%)		4,310,498	1,550,140	4,600,221	4,686,554	410,770	672,229	16,230,413
TOTAL		70,625,855	25,398,450	75,372,858	76,787,385	6,730,317	11,014,213	265,929,079

ANNEX III: MAP(S)

Map(s) should show the food security and nutrition level in the country.

Please ensure:

- Map(s) are fully legible at this scale (i.e., A4) in in black and white.
- Provide separately an electronic version of the map that can be adjusted for other language versions of the final document.

ANNEX IV: ACRONYMS

AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations
ACR	Annual Country Report
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFD	Agence Française de Développement
BSF	Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program
CBT	Cash Based Transfers
CHW	Community Health Worker
COHA	Cost of Hunger in Africa
COMET	Country Operation Management Enhancement Tool
CSP	Country Strategic Plan
C2C	Communes de Convergence
DNPGCCA	Dispositif National de Prévention et de Gestion des Catastrophes et des Crises Alimentaires
EMOP	Emergency Operation
EVIAM	Enquête Nationale sur la Vulnérabilité à l'insécurité Alimentaire des Ménages en Milieu Rural au Niger
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFA	Food for Asset
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFD	General Food Distribution
HEA	Household Economy Approach
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
ICA	Integrated Context Analysis
ICRC	International Red Cross Committee
ICYF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
I3N	Les Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens
LCDAP	Lake Chad Development and Climate Resilience Action Plan
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MUAC	Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) Measuring Tapes
NWoW	New Way of Working
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PDES	Programme de Développement Economique et Social

PRRO	Protracted Recovery and Relief Operation
RISE	Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced
RRM	Rapid Response Mechanism
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SBCC	Social and Behavior Change Communication
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SMART	Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions
SO	Special Operation
SOLVE	Supply Optimization through Logistics Visibility an Evolution
T-ICSP	Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan
TSF	Targeted Supplementary Feeding
UEMOA	Union Economique Monétaire Ouest-Africaine
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNHAS	United Nations Humanitarian Air Services
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Fund
UNISS	United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
ZHSR	Zero Hunger Strategic Review

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