



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Niger Country Brief January 2019



Operational Context

Niger is a land-locked and food-deficit Sahelian country with a population of over 21 million people and an annual demographic growth of 3.9 percent, the highest in Africa.

The latest national survey (*Cadre Harmonisé* 2018) estimates that 0.6 million people were food insecure in the last quarter of 2018 and that figures may rise to 1.22 million in the coming lean season (June to September 2019). Acute malnutrition rates of children remained at 14 percent and is above the WHO emergency threshold of 15 percent in the Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder regions. 48 percent of the under-five children are stunted, (SMART Survey 2018).

Food and nutrition insecurity are driven by poverty, demographic growth, environmental degradation and cyclical shocks which negatively affect livelihoods. In addition, persisting regional volatility and security issues cause migration and spontaneous displacements.

The Government has put resilience building and social protection at the core of its development agenda, highlighting the importance of a multi-sectoral integrated approach, spearheaded by the national Nigeriens nourish Nigeriens initiative (I3N). Food and nutrition insecurity remained one of the major development challenges. 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**

2018 Human Development Index: **189 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **47,8 % of children between 6-59 months**

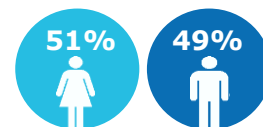
In Numbers

3,054 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 859,645 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 60.1 m six months (March-August 2019) net funding requirements, representing 55% of total

645,404 people assisted in January 2019



Operational Updates

- In line with WFP's corporate Integrated Road Map process, WFP in Niger is preparing for the implementation of a Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2020-2024. A nationally-owned Zero Hunger Strategic Review will serve as the basis for the CSP. The CSP is planned to go for approval at WFP's Executive Board in November 2019. Consultations with the Government, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), UN Agencies, and donors are ongoing for the formulation of the five-year CSP.
- In January, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to almost 650,000 people, including Malian and Nigerian refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabéry regions. WFP provided malnutrition treatment to 36,396 children aged 6-23 months suffering from moderate acute malnutrition and reached 13,593 children aged 6-23 months with the prevention of malnutrition through the provision of supplementary foods. Through WFP's school feeding activity, some 117,200 primary children in 691 schools across the country received two school meals a day including 25,000 children under the emergency school feeding programme in the Diffa region.
- Emergency Response** - Due to the new security restriction measures adopted by the local authorities which limited humanitarian access, WFP was unable to provide emergency assistance to some 14,000 people in the Tassara and Tillia departments (at the border with Mali). The distribution is scheduled to take place in February as the restrictions have been lifted.
- Through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), WFP reached 14,050 newly displaced people in ten sites in Diffa and two sites in Tillabéry, with food assistance and blanket feeding for children aged 6-23 months. WFP will reinforce its emergency operations in the Tillabéry, Tahoua and Diffa which are marked by a significant deterioration of the security situation and increased humanitarian needs.
- The three regions host some 150,000 IDPs, and 174,000 refugees. A recent publication by the Protection Cluster on Tillabéry showed that, in 2018, 419 protection incidents were recorded in the Tillabéry region with an average of 35 incidents per month. The municipalities of Inates, Abala, Anzourou and Ayerou remained the most affected, with more than 300 protection incidents leading to the displacement of nearly 34,000 people in these departments alone.
- Resilience Scale-up** - WFP is continuing its scale-up of resilience activities in Maradi, Tahoua, and Zinder regions to support the government's resilience scale-up plan ("Pro-Resilience"). Through this scale up, WFP is reaching 280,000 new beneficiaries by reinforcing existing interventions and expanding integrated packages of interventions- including land and water rehabilitation through food assistance for assets (FFA), the construction of water infrastructure, smallholder farmers support, school feeding and nutrition activities, mainstreaming capacity strengthening for all its partners throughout. WFP plans to expand its scale-up to Tillabéry region in a second step.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Yoshitake INOUE

Caption: UNHAS airplane parked at Niamey airport.

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Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
266 m	50 m	60.1*m

* March to August 2019

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome1: 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.

Focus area : Crisis response

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.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Food insecure school-age children, in targeted regions have access to adequate and nutritious food all year-round.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activity 2: Provide school meals to vulnerable children during the school year, in a way that relies on and stimulates local production (home-grown school feeding).

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable groups including children, pregnant women and adolescent girls in targeted areas have enhanced nutritional status all year-round.

Focus area: Resilience building

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

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

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

Focus area: Resilience building

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, local purchases, through an integrated community-based approach.

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

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities

Strategic Outcome 5: National institutions have strengthened capacities to manage food-security, nutrition, and social protection policies and programmes by 2030.

Focus area: resilience building

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

Strategic Result 8: Global partnership

Strategic Outcome 6: National institutions have s: Humanitarian and development partners have access to common services to access and operate in targeted areas throughout the year

Focus area: resilience building

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

Activity 8: Provide logistics services to partners, to address

- In January, resilience coordination meetings with all partners (cooperating partners (CPs) and government line ministries) were conducted in the three regions to check on status of activities, identify bottlenecks and ways forward. The first national level coordination meeting on the scale -up activities has been launched under the leadership of Nigeriens nourish Nigeriens Initiative (IN), with participation of all key ministries involved – Agriculture and Livestock, Environment, Health, Education, Community Development. Key field level trainings on FFA, nutrition, school feeding have been carried out with the Ministries with whom WFP has signed Memoranda of Understanding (Agriculture, Environment, Health, Education), the CPs and five community -based planning exercises have been finalized. FFA, and nutrition activities are ongoing since November assisting respectively 200,000 and 56,000 beneficiaries while School feeding activities started in January targeting 85,000 students in 468 schools. WFP is now focusing on strengthening complementarities with other UN and NGO partners to ensure more comprehensive assistance and greater results through the scale -up of joint resilience interventions.
- School feeding-** the programme continues to suffer from severe resources shortfall (needs for the next six months is USD 1.2 million). WFP has already reduced the number of children to benefit from school feeding compared to the project plan while prioritizing school feeding in emergency setting and in the resilience scaling -up areas.
- Nutrition** – WFP's nutrition activities are facing a significant deficit of USD 14.7 million over the next six months (representing a deficit of 80 percent). Due to lack of resources, WFP was forced to reduce its nutrition activities to regions with high malnutrition rates and zones affected by insecurity, namely Diffa, Maradi, Zinder, as well as some departments of north Tahoua and north Tillabery. Furthermore, the funding secured for nutrition as part of the integrated package in 2019, is earmarked for Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder.
- A baseline survey to assess the accessibility and coverage of malnutrition treatment services was conducted by WFP and the National Directorate of Nutrition. Results highlighted that coverage, particularly in the Maradi, Zinder and Tahoua regions, of activities to treat moderate acute malnutrition was less than 20 percent, even for children aged 6 to 23 months. Reasons include the malfunctioning of some nutritional recovery centres and, above all, the frequent stockouts caused by funding deficit that WFP has faced in the past – leading to a complete suspension for several months.
- Food Fortification Project (FOPAT)** – WFP organized two workshops in Maradi and Zinder, with various partners involved in the fortification project. The aim was to promote standards for vitamin A-enriched peanut oil and iron and folic acid-enriched wheat flour, and to sensitize stakeholders on fortification standards and their applications for better ownership.
- United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)** – In 2018, the WFP-managed UNHAS service continued to provide vital air services to the humanitarian community in Niger. A total of 13,398 passengers and 38 mt of light cargo were transported throughout the year. Some 72 organisations were served. UNHAS also supported vital medical evacuations of humanitarian staff.
- UNHAS in 2019 has a total budget of USD 9.8 million. The operation records a shortfall of USD 6.5 million for the year (representing 66 percent of requirements).

Donors in 2018

Belgium, Canada, China, ECHO, DEVCO, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Multilateral, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, UN CERF, United States of America.