



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Niger Country Brief May 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, March 2019*) estimates that 0.74 million people are food insecure and figures may rise to 1.17 million during the lean season. Acute malnutrition rates of children remained at 14 percent. (*National Nutrition Survey, April 2019*).

Food and nutrition insecurity are driven by poverty, demographic growth, environmental degradation and cyclical shocks. In addition, a deteriorating security situation in the border area to Mali and Burkina Faso as well as in the Lake Chad region lead to continuing population displacements.

The Government of Niger 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).

WFP has been present in Niger since 1968.



Population: **22 million**

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

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **47.8% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

3,148 mt of food assistance distributed in April

US\$ 459,605 cash-based transfers made in April

US\$ 44 m six months (June–November 2019) net funding requirements

571,529 people assisted in April



Strategic Updates

- A deterioration of the security situation affected humanitarian access in the Northern departments of Tillabéri region in May. Following attacks by non-State armed groups (NSAG) in Northern Tillabéri, local authorities decided to oblige humanitarian actors to use military escorts for any humanitarian missions as risk mitigation measures. WFP, as part of the Humanitarian Country Team, decided to put assistance on hold until a better solution is found. The suspension lasted for three weeks. Missions resumed after intense negotiations efforts with the Government.
- The Government's lean season response plan foresees assistance to 1.17 million people from June to August 2019. WFP will focus its assistance on conflict-affected areas along the borders with Mali, Burkina Faso and Diffa, targeting the most vulnerable people (*Cadre Harmonisé* Phase 3 and 4). Accordingly, in addition to its ongoing assistance to refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities, WFP will target 205,000 people or 20 percent of the Government's plan.

Operational Updates

Crisis Response

- In April and May, the country witnessed a new influx of Nigerians fleeing insecurity in their country. About 20,000 Nigerians, mostly from the country's north-western Sokoto State, found refuge in about 15 villages, close to the border, in Niger's Maradi region. WFP is coordinating with the Government, UNHCR and other partners to provide adequate assistance to these people as well as to host communities. WFP activated an advance financing mechanism to be able to start distributions of food and nutrition assistance in June.

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Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Amadou Baraze

Caption: WFP Beneficiary in Kablewa camp, Diffa region.

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019)

2019 Total Requirement (in USD)	2019 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
266 m	93.4 m	44 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

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.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide assistance to crisis-affected populations, including refugees and IDPs, through food assistance, emergency school meals and specialized nutritious food to children for malnutrition prevention.

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

Activities:

- Provide school meals to vulnerable children during the school year, in a way that relies on and stimulates local production

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

Activities:

- Provide malnutrition treatment and prevention 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

Activities:

- Provide livelihood support to food insecure and at-risk people, including the development or rehabilitation of assets, climate risk management measures, local purchases, through a community-based approach.
- Provide seasonal food assistance to food insecure population.

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

Activities:

- 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: Humanitarian and development partners have access to common services to access and operate in targeted areas throughout the year

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide UNHAS flight services to partners, to access areas of humanitarian interventions.
- Provide logistics services to partners, to address problems of accessibility.

- In May, due to military escort obligations mentioned above, WFP was not able to provide assistance to 31,820 Malian refugees, host communities and IDPs in the Tillabéry region.
- The deteriorating security situation also hindered access to some villages in the Tillabéri region where pre-lean-season targeting needed to be carried out. Hence only 90 percent of the targeting exercise could be completed on time.
- WFP participated in the UN's joint assistance of the families of almost 100 victims of a gas truck explosion close to the international airport in Niamey.
- In light of the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Niger, WFP is working on strengthening emergency preparedness capacities.

Integrated Resilience-Building Package

- **Food assistance for assets (FFA)** – The resilience-building team of WFP's Regional Bureau in Dakar carried out an oversight mission to eight FFA sites in Maradi and Tahoua regions. They assessed weir construction sites and land recuperation activities and provided valuable technical recommendations.
- **School Feeding** – WFP continued to assist over hundred schools of some 'convergence communities' that are implementing a new scheme of direct cash transfers for purchases from food suppliers.
- **Local food purchases** – The local purchasing period nearly finished with 1,437 mt of millet and 1,628 mt of niébé purchased from smallholders, and 6,538 mt of millet from traders. As market conditions remained favourable, WFP opted for launching a last tender for 3,500 mt of cereals from traders.
- **Nutrition** – the first of three data collection rounds for an updated Fill the Nutrient Gap report ended in May. The update aims at taking seasonality of malnutrition figures into account by collecting data in 22 markets of the Maradi and Zinder regions at three different moments.

Humanitarian-Development Nexus

- WFP is providing support to the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs to progress on the operationalization of the Government's Humanitarian-Development Nexus roadmap.

Donors

Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Monaco, Multilateral, Niger, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, UN CERF, UNDP, United States of America.