



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Niger Country Brief June 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 in 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**

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

Income Level: **Low**

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

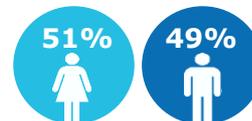
In Numbers

2,248 mt of food assistance distributed in May

US\$ 417,318 cash-based transfers in May

US\$ 12.3 m five months (August-December 2019) net funding requirements

1,040,704 people assisted from January to May 2019



Strategic Updates

- WFP is assessing results of the introduction of a scheme of cash payments to schools participating in the school feeding programme instead of food delivery. WFP brought together representatives of government counterparts, school canteen management committees, farmer associations and traders to discuss their experiences. Participants agreed on the relevance of the scheme which needs to be further strengthened to reinforce the potential for home-grown school meals resourced from local economy actors and to reduce the administrative burden.
- WFP is exploring various means of introducing new cash-based delivery mechanisms such as mobile money, as well as working with other partners to understand the potential to use common contractual arrangements for cash delivery and to promote financial inclusion.
- WFP is supporting the Government and African Union (AU)-New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) on the organisation of side-event on home grown school feeding during the AU summit in Niamey.

Operational Updates

Crisis Response

- WFP launched the 2019 lean season assistance (June to August) and is implementing 20 percent of the Government's lean season assistance with a geographical focus on conflict-affected areas in Tillabéry, Tahoua and Diffa region. Distributions are carried out either in cash or in in-kind transfer modality.
- In response to the arrival of about 20,000 Nigerian refugees in the Maradi region, WFP, in coordination with UNHCR and local authorities, delivered 276 mt of food to six distribution sites near the villages currently still hosting the refugees. The security situation does not allow a shift to cash-based assistance as was initially foreseen. The second round of assistance in July will remain in kind.

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Credit: WFP/Aissa Manga

Caption: WFP Beneficiary in Zinder region

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Five Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
199 m*	112 m	12.3 m**

*Budget revision

**As of 25 July 2019

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: Crisis response

Activities:

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

- Access to the conflict-affected Malian border area is increasingly interrupted due to the escalation of violent attacks. While the government had agreed to no longer require military escorts for humanitarian missions, imposed in early May. WFP was able to resume food aid distributions to Malian refugees in the Maingaizé and Ayérou camps, to IDPs and vulnerable host populations.
- In Diffa, the introduction of cash-based assistance to Nigerian refugees in camp Sayam Forage, initially foreseen for this month, was postponed to August 2019 in order to inform and sensitize refugees for the change of modality.

Integrated Resilience-Building Package

- The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Niger was given a tour of WFP's intervention site in Wacha, Zinder region, in partnership with Karkara. This visit was also an opportunity to discuss complementarities with GIZ projects in different areas. WFP has received a multi-year contribution from Germany to implement a scale-up of its integrated multi-sectorial resilience-building activities.
- **Food assistance for assets (FFA)** – WFP's NGO partners received trainings on gender and protection aspects ahead of this year's unconditional distributions during the lean season. Trainings covered various issues, such as protection from sexual exploitation, humanitarian principles and complaints mechanisms.
- Nutrition – During the lean season, WFP and UNICEF are distributing folic acid and iron supplementation aiming at reaching 12,780 adolescent school girls to prevent iron deficiency and anaemia in three communes in the Maradi region and three in the Zinder region, the regions most affected by acute malnutrition.

Humanitarian-Development Nexus

- WFP is a very active member in the Government's working groups on implementation of the nexus roadmap. The working groups are meant to identify priority geographical areas, appropriate nexus practices and coordination mechanisms.

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.