



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP Niger Country Brief August 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 food security analysis survey (*Cadre Harmonisé, March 2019*) estimated that 0.74 million people were food insecure in the beginning of 2019, expected to rise to 1.17 million affected 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 with 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**

out of 189

Index: 189

Income Level: **Low**

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

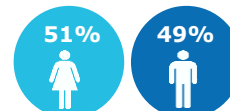
## In Numbers

**6,368 mt** of food assistance distributed in July

**USD 1.27 m** cash-based transfers in July

**USD 35.4 m** six months (*Sept 2019 - February 2020*) net funding requirements

**1.36 m people assisted**  
from January to July



## Strategic Updates

- WFP advocates for financial inclusion of vulnerable and rural parts of Niger's population. At a meeting with the Minister Delegate for Budget, Dr. Jidoud Ahmet, WFP's Country Director raised the issue of the lack of national ID cards which is affecting the financial agenda inclusion in Niger, as this is a prerequisite to obtain SIM cards, open bank accounts, etc. As a temporary and partial solution, WFP proposed the use of WFP-issued electronic identity cards (i.e. SCOPE cards) to enable WFP-funded mobile money transfers and await the feedback of regulatory authorities to this effect.
- Based on successful implementation of Rome Based Agencies (RBA – FAO, IFAD, WFP) integrated resilience programme, the country has been selected to be part of a joint planning and programming to harmonize RBA contribution to system-wide strategic and programmatic thinking. In August, a technical mission took place to kickstart this RBA joint planning exercise. In addition, the steering committee of the RBA's project funded by Canada will be organized in Niger from 16 to 20 September.

## Operational Updates

### Crisis Response

- WFP estimates that 487,000 beneficiaries and 20,000 children aged 6-23 months were reached during the lean season distributions in August. Out of these, nearly 274,000 people were targeted for crisis response assistance, while nearly 213,000 were targeted for resilient activities.
- WFP is providing food and nutrition assistance to 35,000 registered Nigerian refugees that had recently settled in some 40 villages, close to the Nigerian border, in Maradi.
- In August, WFP carried out an emergency food security assessment combined with a targeting exercise which confirmed the need for food assistance for the most vulnerable households. Around 1,700 very poor households (29 percent of the total population) and 2,900 poor households (51 percent) were identified, which represent a total population of 38,000 people. According to availability of resource, the survey recommended assisting the very poor and poor and to re-evaluate the needs during the first harvest for a second cycle of unconditional assistance.
- In August, refugees of the Sayam Forage camp in the Diffa region received a mix of cash and cereals, representing a first step to shifting to a fully cash-based food assistance. Sensitization sessions around this shift preceded this change. Coordination with market actors has not been satisfactory and will be a point to strengthen before making the full shift to cash payments. Nutrition supplements will continue to be distributed to vulnerable children.

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

Credit: WFP/Amadou Baraze

Caption: Food Assistance to Diffa refugees

## Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
<b>199 m</b>	<b>132 m</b>	<b>35.4 m</b>

\*Sept 2019– Feb 2020 (in 2020 WFP Niger will implement a CSP)

### 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.

## Integrated Resilience-Building Package

- Food assistance for assets (FFA) – 34 Master II students from the University of Niamey and the regional universities of Maradi, Tahoua, and Diffa were deployed in resilience sites to develop their thesis, in order to improve the technical quality and study the socio-economic impacts of interventions. In the next months the University of Niamey will also conduct research to adapt WFP participatory planning tools to refugee and urban contexts.
- Nutrition – A lack of funding forced WFP to prioritize certain areas for nutrition activities. Malnutrition treatment items could only be delivered to the conflict-affected Diffa region as well as to the northern parts of the Tillabery and Tahoua regions. These regions were in turn not assisted with malnutrition prevention items for children aged 6-23 months.

## Supply Chain

WFP has ordered the purchase of 1,600 mt of specialised nutritious food to be produced locally by STA in Niamey. At the same time 3,800 mt of millet and 1,200 mt of beans were purchased from local traders. This is in line with WFP's objective to increase local procurement and contribute to the local economy. It also serves the interests of WFP by significantly reducing delivery times, transport costs and product shelf life.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

- By end of August, WFP launched a countrywide mVAM project to remotely monitor household food security and nutrition by means of telephone surveys. The focus lies on the four conflict-affected regions (Diffa, Tahoua, Tillabery and Maradi) with light surveillance in the other regions of the country. Data collection began in August and updates are produced every month.
- WFP assisted the Government in launching a complementary mVAM project aiming at increasing the frequency and geographical coverage of analytical update on the food security situation across the country by working with trained key informants in conflict-affected areas. These informants from selected community-based early warning and emergency response units (SCAP/RU) provide monthly food security data through mobile telecommunication which allows a contextualised and in-depth assessment of local situations.
- The Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) of the first distribution series of the lean season revealed a stable food security situation in all intervention areas. Less than 20 percent of the households evaluated had low food consumption in terms of meal frequency and food diversity. The lack of diversity in the diets of children and women remains a concern and WFP is exploring ways to further strengthen sensitization to healthy eating in assisted communities.

## Donors

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