



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Niger Country Brief November 2019

Operational Context

Niger is a land-locked and food-deficit Sahelian country with a population of over 23.2 million people and an annual demographic growth of 3.9 percent, the highest in Africa.

The recent food security analysis (November 2019 Cadre Harmonisé) estimates that there are currently 1.4 million food insecure people in Niger and further projects that 1.9 million people will be food insecure during the 2020 lean season.

Food and nutrition insecurity are driven by poverty, environmental degradation, and recurring shocks. In addition, the deteriorating security situation on the border with Mali Burkina Faso, and in the Lake Chad region is leading to large population displacements.

WFP in Niger is engaged in emergency response interventions assisting refugees, displaced populations and host communities in Diffa, Tillabery, North Tahoua, and Maradi. In areas that have been recurrently affected by food insecurity, WFP is working closely with the Nigeriens Nourishing Nigeriens Initiative (IN) and Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Health and Education to scale up resilience efforts through an integrated package of assistance.

WFP has been present in Niger since 1968.



Population: **23.2 million**

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

Income Level: **Low**

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

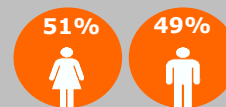
In Numbers

1,684 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 250,993 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 59 m six months (December 2019 – May 2020) net funding requirements

438,568 people assisted in November 2019



WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Operational Updates

- WFP's Executive Board approved Niger's first Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2020-2024), which outlines how WFP will cooperate with the Government and partners to contribute to the Sustainable Development Agenda over the next five years. By the end of 2024, it is foreseen that WFP will have provided an assistance to over 5.5 million vulnerable people in Niger through humanitarian and development interventions, with a total budget of USD 1.06 billion.
- WFP and the Government of Niger participated in three side events of WFP's Executive Board: "Moving forward in partnership: Promoting an integrated school health and nutrition package", presenting joint activities by WFP, UNICEF and UNFPA in Chad and Niger; "Improving Diets and Nutrition in Niger and Mali"; and "WFP and Partners Operationalizing Integrated Resilience Packages in the Sahel: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities".
- WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Niger's National Mechanism for the Prevention and Management of Food Crises (DNP-GCA), to improve emergency response coordination.
- Niger's Transitional Plan for the Education and Training Sector 2020-2022 (PTSEF), which was co-signed by WFP, was adopted by the Government in November. Replacing the existing ten-year plan (2012-2022), the new plan aims at improving coordination among education actors and further strengthen capacities of the Government.

Crisis Response

- Following a decision to relocate Malian refugees from Tabarey Barey and Mangaizé camps to more urban settings in Ouallam and Ayérou by the end of the year, WFP is closely coordinating with the Government and UNHCR to ensure assistance is provided continuously throughout this operation.
- In early November, the Government lifted the military escort obligation the National Security Council imposed for humanitarian missions in Diffa and Tahoua due to rising security concerns. This enabled WFP to resume its operations in these regions and reach over 150,000 people who could not be assisted in October. However, armed escorts still apply to most of the UN and NGOs' missions in Tillabéry, where WFP has not been able to reach some 18,000 people in need of food and nutrition assistance since October 2019.

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Main Photo: Credit: WFP/Communication

Caption: Harvests in Maradi region.

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) *
199 m	134 m	59 m

* Dec 2019 – May 2020 (From January 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.

- In Diffa region, the response to flood victims, which had been limited to Diffa town as a result of the restrictions, was extended to all affected areas. WFP plans to assist some 20,000 flood-affected people through cash transfers in Diffa, Chétimari and Guéskrou communes.
- Contributions were received from UN CERF and ECHO following resource mobilization efforts led by the Resident Humanitarian Coordinator to address UNHAS' critical funding. This will ensure WFP and partners to continue implementing emergency food assistance interventions at planned scale until March 2020.

Integrated Resilience-building Package

- Regional and communal planning exercises of WFP's three-pronged approach led by the Universities of Niamey and Diffa were conducted in the regions of Diffa and Tillabéry. The consultations brought together government's technical services, humanitarian and development partners and community representatives, facilitating dialogue between host communities and displaced people.
- WFP and partners supported the Government in conducting the 2019 National Nutrition Survey, based on the SMART (Standardised Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions) approach, which is a cross-sectional field survey method designed to support the collection of quality, up-to-date and timely nutrition data. Some key findings of the survey include that acute malnutrition affects 10.7 percent of children aged 6-59 months, while chronic malnutrition affects 45.7 percent of the same age group.
- WFP convened a resilience workshop with NGOs, UN agencies (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, UN Women, etc.), GIZ, the Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced (RISE) II partners, the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), the University of Niamey, the World Bank, and government ministries. The challenges of the integrated resilience approach and lessons learned were discussed, to better inform future implementation.

Food security assessments

- The Cadre Harmonisé conducted by the government and partners including the World Food Programme, published in November 2019, estimates that 1.4 million people are food insecure in Niger. Projections for the agricultural lean season (June-September 2020) foresee an increase of this figure to 1.9 million people. While figures from this year cannot be compared to last year's due to a changed methodology in calculating food insecurity, the estimates highlight a strong deterioration of national food security. This is attributed to a worsening security situation and harvest losses in some conflict-free areas due to locust attacks, flooding and irregular rainfall.
- The results of the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) conducted by WFP in the border areas with Mali and Burkina Faso reveal that most households have been affected by economic shocks and natural disasters in the past few months. Moreover, political insecurity has resulted in losses in food production, assets and income. The areas most affected include the regions of Ayerou, Banibangou, and Abala in northern Tillabéry.

Donors

Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Germany, Luxembourg, Monaco, Niger, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, UN Central Emergency Response Fund, United States of America.