



World Food Programme

WFP Niger Country Brief December 2019

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



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 (I3N) 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**

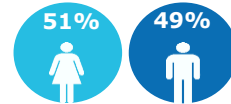
In Numbers

3,602 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 861,690 cash-based transfers made

USD 48 m six months (January - June 2020) net funding requirements

428,960 people assisted in November 2019



Figures of beneficiaries reached, quantity of food distributed, and cash-based transfers made are from November 2019.

Operational Updates

- The November 2019 "Cadre Harmonisé" projects an alarming situation in 2020 and particularly in Zinder, Tillabery, Maradi and Tahoua regions. During the lean season (June- August 2020) 1.9 m of people is expected to be food insecure (Phase 3 to 5) compared to 1.2 million people during the same period in 2019, and an average of 1.3 million people over the 2014-2018 period. This worsening situation is already affecting a growing number of people during the post-harvest season with 1.4 million people of food insecure people in October-December 2019 compared to 600,000 in 2018 and a 420,000 average between 2014 - 2018. WFP Niger is working on a Country Strategic Plan (CSP) budget revision for the 2020 crisis response component, which foresees a significant increase in the number of beneficiaries. The increase under the emergency component will help the Government to address the growing acute food assistance needs in the country.
- The assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms. Ursula Mueller, visited Niger to assess the humanitarian situation and response. During her visit, she met the President of the Republic of Niger, other senior government officials and some representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations agencies and the diplomatic community. Following the mission additional USD 11 million were allocated to Niger.
- The German Ambassador in Niger visited Diffa to discuss with partners about coordination in the region and the implementation of the Nexus approach. The mission included some high-level meetings with local authorities and a visit to Chetimari, WFP intervention site.
- Food Security Cluster:** A close coordination between WFP, Food Security Cluster partners and the *Dispositif National de Prévention et de Gestion des Crises Alimentaires* (DNP-GCA) is key to address the needs of the increasing number of the most vulnerable people. Cluster partners are working closely with the DNP-GCA for the elaboration of the 2020 National Assistance Plan.

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Main Photo:
Credit: WFP/Communication
Caption: Millet husking in Zinder.

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) *
199 m	157 m	48 m

* Jan – June 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.

Crisis Response

- The relocation of refugees from Mangaize camp to Ouallam and Tabarey Barey to Ayerou is ongoing. However, several logistics issues involving both UN agencies, NGOs and the Government will delay the completion of the operation within the expected timeframe.
- Humanitarian access remains an alarming constraint and is hampering WFP's capacity to reach targeted beneficiaries in the conflict-affected areas in Tillabery and Tahoua. Access is strictly restricted within 50 km along the border with Burkina Faso and Mali in Tillabery and Tahoua. Escorts are still mandatory in most of Tillabery region and in Tillia Department (Tahoua), except Intikane camp.
- Attacks by non-State armed groups (NSAGs) in December resulted in the death of nearly 90 militaries, mainly during the attack to the Inates base on 10 December.
- The rapid deterioration of security in western Niger is resulting in a new influx of IDPs in Ayerou, Torodi and Banibangou.

Integrated resilience-building package

- From August 2018 to December 2019, WFP contributed to the government's "Pro-Resilience" programme assisting 650,000 people, of which 471,424 people with livelihoods activities, 125,000 children in school canteens, 9,913 adolescent girls with school grants and 155 small producers with capacity strengthening activities.
- WFP organized an inception workshop on climate forecast-based financing aiming at strengthening resilience and national preparedness capacities for climate shocks.
- In the framework of the partnership between the University of Niamey and WFP, the Country Representative took part in the Scientific and Cultural Week of Agronomy Student at the University of Niamey. This partnership, which dates to 2013, allows WFP to support the Faculty of Agronomy in its research and efforts in the fight against hunger.
- In line with its new approach to the cash-based transfers in school canteens, WFP provided a series of trainings related to the newly introduced cash-based approach in school canteens in Maradi, Tahoua, and Zinder. A total of 510 school principals, 510 members of the management committees (CGDES), 32 managers and members of the CGDES communal federations, as well as education inspectors and regional canteen coordinators were trained.

Food security assessments

- The Dispositif held its annual After-Action Review (Revue Après Action) workshop in Dosso. This workshop brought together all actors involved in food security in Niger and aimed to assess 2019 response and identify needs and vulnerable areas for 2020. Conclusions showed that 83 percent of the food insecure people were assisted in 2019. As per 2020 projections, 5,949 villages were classified as food insecure (Phase 3 to 5) affecting 1.9 million people during the lean season.

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, USA.