



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Niger

## Country Brief

### February 2020



### 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 latest food security analysis (*Cadre Harmonisé*) projected 1.9 million people to be food insecure during the upcoming lean season (Jun-Aug 2020).

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 Nigeria is causing large population displacements.

WFP's emergency response assists refugees, IDPs and host communities in Diffa, Tillabéry, Tahoua, and Maradi. In areas of chronic food insecurity, WFP supports resilience with an integrated package of assistance in cooperation with the Government.

WFP has been present in Niger since 1968.



Income Level: **Low**

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

Acute malnutrition: **10.7% of children between 6-59 months**

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

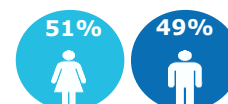
### In Numbers

**1,050 mt** of food assistance distributed in February

**US\$1.43 m** cash-based transfers made in February

**472,874** people assisted in January

**US\$99** six months net funding requirements (Mar-Aug 2020)



### Strategic Updates

- On 23 February, the government of Niger adopted the national humanitarian assistance plan for 2020 (*Plan de soutien 2020*). This year, for the first time, the national plan as well as the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP 2020) of the humanitarian community draw upon the same vulnerability analysis. The Government foresees to assist, among others, 1.93m people during the lean season (June-August) as well as 1.08m people with food assistance for assets (FFA/CFA) outside of the lean season. Furthermore, it foresees to assist 226,000 refugees year-round and 150,000 IDPs for three months, using the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). To tackle malnutrition, the Government aims to assist 521,821 children, aged 6-23 months, suffering from moderate acute malnutrition as well as 376,444 pregnant and lactating women.
- WFP Niger is contributing to the *Plan de Soutien 2020*. Funding permitting, WFP's implementation plan would cover 24 percent of the Government's lean season target, 37 percent of the planned assistance to refugees as well as 25 percent of the RRM target. Furthermore, it would cover 29 percent of the FFA/CFA target.
- On 28 February, WFP extended the level 3 (L3) regional emergency operation in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger until 31 December 2020. The L3 response was initially activated for 6 months (September 2019 to March 2020).
- WFP Niger, in collaboration with the government and key stakeholders, organized a workshop with the aim to operationalize the WFP Niger Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2020-2024. Workshop participants were informed on the strategic orientation of the CSP 2020-2024.
- In February, WFP Niger began adopting precautionary measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hand sanitizers have been distributed in all offices and it is mandatory to wash hands when entering WFP buildings. Sensibilization sessions have been organized with staff. WFP's business continuity plan is available and will be updated as the situation unfolds, and arrangements taken to facilitate working from home. WFP coordinates actively through the UN Country Team to harmonize efforts.

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**Main Photo:** Credit: WFP/Communication  
**Caption:** general food distribution in Maradi

## Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>265.7 m</b>	<b>72 m</b>	<b>99 m</b>

## Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Crisis affected populations, including refugees, IDPs host communities and returnees in targeted areas are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of a crisis

**Focus area:** Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide an integrated food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations (refugees, IDPs, host communities and returnees)

**Strategic Outcome 2:** School-aged girls and boys including adolescents in targeted food insecure and pastoral regions have access to adequate and nutritious food during the school year.

Activities:

- Provide an integrated school feeding package to boys, girls and adolescents during the school year in a way that relies on and stimulates local production (home-grown school feeding)

## Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Nutritionally vulnerable populations including children 6-59 months, pregnant women and girls, adolescent girls, in targeted areas have improved nutritional status by 2024

**Focus area:** Resilience building

Activities:

- Support national nutrition programme through provision of preventive and curative nutrition services (including SBCC, local food fortification, complementary feeding and capacity strengthening) to targeted populations.

## Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Food insecure populations and communities including those affected by climate shocks, in targeted areas have more resilient livelihoods integrated into sustainable food systems to ensure access to adequate and nutritious food by 2024.

**Focus area:** Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide livelihood support to food insecure and at-risk men, women, boys and girls, including the development or rehabilitation of natural and productive assets (FFA), climate risk management measures, and value chains.

## Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities

**Strategic Outcome 5:** National institutions and other partners have strengthened capacities to design and manage integrated gender-responsive food security, nutrition and shock-responsive social protection policies and programmes by 2024

**Focus area:** Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide capacity strengthening to national, decentralised institutions and partners on: (i) coherent and gender-transformative intersectoral policies; ii) planning, (ii) coordination mechanisms, (iii) ownership and programme implementation, and (iv) knowledge management.

## Strategic Result 8: Global partnership

**Strategic Outcome 6:** Humanitarian and development partners in Niger have access to common services and expertise to access and operate in targeted areas until appropriate and sustainable alternatives are available

**Focus area:** Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide UNHAS flight services to partners, to access areas of humanitarian interventions.
- Provide logistics, ITC and coordination services to partners in absence of alternative to ensure humanitarian assistance as well as other supply chain services and expertise on demand.

- Access in Tillabéry and Tahoua regions remain an issue of great concern. WFP continues its modus operandi in low profile - distributions and third-party monitoring carried out by local partners in close coordination with security forces, while advocating for better access through the Humanitarian Country Team.
- On 01 February, the Governor of Maradi requested to halt food distributions to Nigerian refugees residing in host villages on the Nigerian border, following continuous security incidents in the area and to accelerate the voluntary relocation of refugees away from the border. As a consequence, WFP was only able to assist those refugees that chose to be relocated away from the border. UNHCR and WFP actively liaised with the Governor's office to resume distributions for everyone as soon as possible.

## Nexus

- Food assistance for assets (FFA) creation activities started in the *communes* of Tondikiwindi, Ayérou and Dingazi in Tillabéry region. In these conflict-affected zones, FFA activities are organized by local NGOs which decide on activities on a daily basis and considering the latest security developments. In February, land rehabilitation activities were only carried out during ten days in Ayérou and one week in Tondikiwindi and Dingazi. All participants are committed to recover days missed in February in the months preceding the lean season in order to recuperate as much degraded land as possible before the rainy season.
- WFP and UNICEF are developing a joint funding proposal for resilience building and social cohesion in the Lake Chad Basin, in consultation with other partners.

## Integrated Resilience-building Package

- In February, WFP continued FFA creation activities in 103 intervention sites in the Zinder, Maradi and Tahoua regions. This month, all participants in land recuperation and water pond rehabilitation activities were assisted with cash, thereby reaching some 113,000 beneficiaries. This includes beneficiaries in 10 intervention sites of the joint Rome-based Agencies (WFP, FAO and IFAD) pilot project in the Zinder and Maradi regions.
- In the same areas, 508 schools benefited from direct cash payments to purchase food for school canteens from local providers.
- In January and February, WFP purchased 2,355mt millet and 1,301mt of niébé from smallholder farmers. The cereals and pulses were acquired from 3,658 smallholder farmers organized in 86 farmers' organizations in the regions of Niamey, Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder. Of these, 20 organizations are from integrated resilience-building sites. When selecting farmers' organisations, preference was given to those with strong representation of female farmers.

## UNHAS

- UNHAS implemented precautionary measures to prevent infection of travelers with COVID-19. Hand sanitizers as well as masks are available and plane cabins are sanitized regularly.
- The net funding requirement to continue UNHAS operations over the next six months (March to August) is USD 3.4m.

## Donors

Canada, Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, Monaco, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, UN Central Emergency Response Fund, United States of America.

## Crisis Response