



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Niger Country Brief March 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**

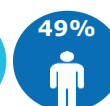
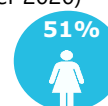
In Numbers

2,909 mt of food assistance distributed in February

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

747,839 people assisted in February

US\$ 87 m six months net funding requirements (April - September 2020)



Operational Updates

- On 30 March, WFP activated a Global Level 3 Surge Emergency to react to the COVID-19 Pandemic and in order to support enhanced emergency mechanisms and fundraising efforts of the organization. At the same time, WFP's regional bureau in Dakar is working with WFP Niger to develop a regional Contingency Plan in the Sahel and West Africa.
- The measures imposed by the Government on 17 March (closure of schools, ban on gatherings of more than 50 people and partial closure of borders) and on 25 March (curfew and cordon sanitaire around the capital), as well as the measures included in the UN COVID-19 contingency plan will disrupt WFP's ability to sustain existing operations in the coming months while ensuring safety of staff and quality of assistance.
- In line with the UN Inter-Agency Contingency Plan for the preparation and response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP Niger activated its Business Continuity Plan on 25 March, with the objective to adapt work arrangements to the COVID19 context (including teleworking; suspension of all non-critical missions; etc.). Since 28 March the first draft of WFP's assistance strategy was finalized to adapt to the above preventative measures.
- Discussions between the Humanitarian Country Team and the Government are ongoing to ensure that humanitarian access is guaranteed to reach vulnerable communities despite government restrictions due to COVID-19.
- In a nutshell WFP's operational adjustments include a review of all activities, purchase of hygiene sanitary kits for partners and distribution sites, adapting targeting protocol, a remote monitoring system, prepositioning additional food stocks to cover for at least three-month needs.
- Consultations with National Mechanism for the Prevention and Management of Disasters and Food Crises (DNP-GCA), Ministry of Community Development, High Commissioner for the 3N [Nigériens Nourish Nigériens] Initiative (HC3N) are ongoing on the adjustment of programme activities to ensure harmonization of modalities and activities' implementation.

WFP is also aiming to build upon the DNP-GCA's existing coordination mechanisms, to reinforce the harmonization of modalities and activities and move forward with a common COVID-19 strategy, including for the DNP-GCA *Plan de Soutien*.

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Photo: WFP/Communication
Caption: PCP exercise

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
265 m	99.5 m	87 m

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.

Crisis Response

- Crisis response activities will be prioritized over all other activities in the case of lack of funding and/or limited operational capacity. This might be the case should there be a need to intervene in urban areas or should the impact of COVID-19 on food security be stronger than expected.
- WFP is working with World Bank, UNICEF, UNHCR, other UN agencies and the Government to scale up the Adaptive Social Protection cash transfer program including in the urban areas in response to the COVID-19 crisis.
- WFP is shifting from conditional to unconditional assistance, in emergency and protracted crisis response areas where complementary conditional assistance was provided to support crisis-affected people's livelihoods.

Integrated Resilience-building Package adapted to the COVID-19 context

- Food assistance for asset (FFA)** - WFP's resilience scale-up plan is on hold until after the lean season months. WFP is consulting with the Government to postpone the start of new activities in expansion sites and the launch of the World Bank's *Development Impact Evaluation (DIME)* to Nov/Dec 2020, when the COVID-19 situation will be re-assessed. Nonetheless, ensuring that support to households through FFA continues in the next months is a critical priority to continue supporting livelihoods.
- School Feeding** - All school meal activities are suspended due to the closure of schools. Nevertheless, take home rations will be provided to school children as a safety net measures to support food access to the children and their families.
- Nutrition** - Nutrition activities will focus on prevention and treatment of MAM, maternal screening and blanket feeding. Nutrition community-led approach are suspended. WFP will work with the Ministry of Health to strengthen remote sensitization and WASH activities and water supply for CRENAMs.
- Capacity Strengthening** - WFP is supporting the government to implement the COVID-19's response plan through technical and financial contributions.

VAM – M&E

- The results of the Cadre Harmonisé exercise of March 2020 confirm the results of November 2019, with estimates that two million people are expected to be food insecure during the upcoming lean season (Jun-Aug 2020) in Niger.
- WFP Niger is switching to a remote monitoring system. Continuous monitoring of outcome and process indicators will be conducted via phone calls (mVAM).

Food Security Cluster

- The Food Security Cluster is working on an adjustment of programmes and activities in coordination with key partners based on COVID-19 measures taken by the government and in consultation with its members. The Cluster is also working on the food security and socio-economic impact of COVID-19 to reflect it in the HRP.

UNHAS

- As of 30 March, UNHAS flights were suspended to comply with the cordon sanitaire around the city of Niamey. Negotiations led by the Humanitarian Coordinator are under way for the authorization of humanitarian flights.

Donors

Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, Germany, Japan, Monaco, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Sweden, UN Central Emergency Response Fund, United Kingdom, United States of America.