



WFP Niger

Country Brief

JUNE 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



In Numbers*

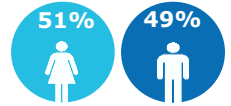
8,791 mt of food assistance distributed in May

USD 1,551,754 cash-based transfers made in May

1,116,941 people assisted in May

USD 59 m six months net funding requirements (July – December 2020)

**June figures not yet available*



Operational Updates

- The state of emergency in Niger, enacted as a response to the COVID-19 emergency, is active until 11 July 2020.
- WFP is collaborating with UNICEF, the World Bank and the Government *Dispositif National* (DNPGCCA) to strengthen the existing social protection system in Niger, and in particular scale up the Adaptive Social Protection programme (ASP) to provide a timely response to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. Various rounds of consultations have taken place with the Government and partners to finalize and operationalize the joint COVID ASP scale up concept note, however funding is insufficient to cover the ASP COVID needs.
- Schools in Niger reopened for 45 days from 2 June to 15 July to allow for the completion of the school year. WFP continued distributing take-home rations covering three-months from April to June, serving as an essential safety net for children and families in rural areas. Remaining stock from end of June will be used for an additional 15-days (until 15 July) where possible.
- The WFP response for the pastoral lean season (April – May) has been completed. In line with its adapted COVID-19 Response Strategy, WFP was providing two-three months cumulative distributions to targeted beneficiaries. WFP, the Government and partners have commenced the agricultural lean season (June – August) response. Due to food procurement constraints and availability, WFP will shift back to providing monthly distributions for the agricultural lean season response in place of cumulative distributions. Compliance with COVID-19 preventive measures (social distancing, facemasks wearing, handwashing at distribution sites and sensitization) by WFP and partners is continuing.
- WFP Niger food procurement constraints experienced over the past months are affecting crisis response activities (lean season, rapid response mechanism and protracted crisis response). The country office continues to face major food gaps due to delays in delivery and cancellations from local suppliers and long lead times for international procurement – all framed within the COVID-19 context in general. WFP aims to reach all prioritized beneficiaries but may have to distribute reduced rations due to the unavailability of certain commodities (partial or total cuts already applied to vegetable oil and salt as part of the general food distribution ration).
- Access to vulnerable populations is still restricted. On 5 June, the Governor of the Maradi region ordered the suspension of all humanitarian operations (including food distributions) to communities situated along the Niger/Nigeria border until further notice to better monitor refugee movements, especially cross-border. WFP Niger has been working with UNHCR and OCHA in seeking clarification from the Government on the continuation of humanitarian assistance for these communities. This region counted 40,000 refugees from January to May, with another 15,000 being relocated by UNHCR, for an estimated total of 55,000 refugees as of June 2020. A total of 10,000 IDPs and 17,500 people from the host population in need of food assistance are targeted by WFP.

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 (March 2020 Cadre Harmonisé) projected 2 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, Tillabéri, Tahoua, and Maradi. In areas of chronic food insecurity, WFP supports resilience with an integrated package of assistance in cooperation with the Government.

The first case of COVID-19 in Niger was declared on 19 March. As of 28 June, Niger had 1,074 confirmed cases of infections, and 67 deaths due to the COVID -19 epidemic. WFP response has been to prioritize lifesaving assistance, while adjusting resilience activities and interventions to comply with all COVID-19 preventative requirements. This includes integrating protection and WASH measures to mitigate health risks, implementing operational and programmatic changes to activities and distributions, and adapting transfer modalities.

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**

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Photo: WFP/Communication

Caption: take-home ration distribution to schoolchildren

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
265 m	180.6 m	59 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, (iii) 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 to areas on the border strip with Mali is still prohibited in the Tahoua region where military escorts remains an obligation. The prohibition on assisting recently displaced persons (refugees and displaced persons) continues in Telemces and other sites following the Intikane ZAR attack on 31 May, except for persons in special need (PSN) identified in Telemces. Food (WFP) and emergency shelter (UNHCR) will be distributed by end of June 2020. This is putting additional constraints on humanitarian operations in this region where access is already restricted due to security issues.

• On 24 June 2020, staff of the national NGO *Action et Programme d'impact au Sahel* (APIS), a WFP cooperating partner in the Tillabéri region, were ambushed by armed individuals in the village of Bossey Bangou in the commune of Torodi. Eleven members of an APIS mission - who were assisting vulnerable households for the lean season response were kidnapped. The NGO was carrying out targeting activities with a view to providing food assistance to vulnerable food-insecure populations during the lean season in an area characterized by a high prevalence of food insecurity. As a precautionary measure, WFP and APIS immediately suspended their operations in Torodi Department (i.e. monitoring of activities, targeting of households, food aid deliveries and distributions) until further notice. The resumption of WFP operations in the area is coordinated with the national authorities and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). In the framework of the HCT, WFP remains committed to provide support to local partners operating in insecure areas throughout the country.

Food Security Cluster (FSC)

• The FSC has completed the revision of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) with initial HRP projects and strategy being maintained (planned activities should be able to meet needs arising from the COVID-19 crisis) while noting a 15 percent increase in the implementation cost for partners due to costs arising from preventative measures that must be maintained.

• According to latest information shared by the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, while no locust swarms have been reported, risk remains due to the upcoming rainy season. The pastoral situation remains a concern as some countries have restricted traditional nomadic movements within their borders and with neighbouring countries. WFP and FAO, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock and the FSC are monitoring the situation.

• The FSC and the Government will update the analysis of the COVID-19 impact on food and nutrition security in the country.

Air Services

• UNHAS Niger flights have not resumed yet. On 26 June, the Civil Aviation Authority in Niger authorized resumption of UNHAS domestic flights, contingent on receiving authorization from the Ministry of Public Health (confirming agreement to comply with all COVID-19 sanitary measures). UNHAS is working with the Government to ensure that all sanitary conditions are in place at all airports before the resumption of flights, and that all concerned authorities are aware of the authorization, including deconfliction. A flight schedule proposition is being presented.

• WFP Global Air Services as part of COVID Global Humanitarian Response Plan: an extraordinary Humanitarian Country Team meeting was held on 10 June to present a draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to all humanitarian partners for disembarking passengers from the WFP operated Global Aviation Service. After being validated by the Prime Minister of Niger on 12 June, WFP received official approval of the SOP from the Government on 14 June. Since then passengers disembarking from WFP Global Aviation flights are able to enter Niger provided, they strictly adhere to the SOP.

Donors

Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Spain, Switzerland, UN CERF, UN Other Funds and Agencies, UK, USA.