



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Niger Country Brief August 2020



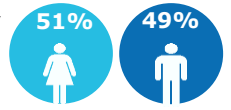
In Numbers

7,95 mt of food assistance distributed in July

USD 4.2 m cash-based transfers made in July

1,357,124 people assisted in July

USD 38 m six months net funding requirements (September 2020 – February 2021)



Operational Context

Niger is a land-locked and food-deficit Sahelian country with a population of over 24.2 million and an annual demographic growth of 3.8 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 and the aggravation of the socioeconomic situation.

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 08 September, Niger had 1,178 confirmed cases, 1,091 people healed and 69 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: **45.7% of children between 6-59 months**

Operational Updates

- In the framework of COVID-19 crisis, the Government of Niger authorized the resumption of commercial airlines in the country as of 1 August. Nevertheless, the state of emergency is currently in place until mid-October.
- WFP signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, whose partnership with WFP is renewed on a yearly basis. This collaboration aims to contribute to the modernization of productive activities, strengthen capacities and create employment opportunities for young people and women in rural areas.
- WFP is undertaking preparatory work to resume community food assistance for assets (FFA) activities from November, in strict respect of prevention measures recommended by the Government. FFA activities were readjusted at household level since March to avoid large gatherings, in line with health measures linked to COVID-19 epidemics.
- WFP is planning its intervention in the context of Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) assistance, in collaboration with the Government's Crisis Management Mechanism (*Dispositif National de Prévention et Gestion des Crises Alimentaires*), UNICEF, and the World Bank. WFP is identifying cooperating partners and fine-tuning targeting mechanisms and chronograms before starting the implementation of ASP assistance.
- Insecurity is alarmingly increasing throughout the whole country. In Tillabéri region, on 9 August non-state armed groups (NSAGs) killed seven humanitarians and their guide in a natural reserve in Kouré, about 80 km south-east of Niamey. The attack caused a series of reinforced security measures to be adopted by UN agencies. The incident did not have a direct impact on WFP operations, however, increasing access constraints in the country remain an issue of great concern for humanitarian actors.
- In Torodi Department (Tillabéri region), following the kidnapping of 10 staff from the NGO Action et programme d'impact au Sahel (APIS) and a driver on 24 June 2020, six villages are still inaccessible for security reasons, as per Government's imposition. WFP remains in close communication with APIS Coordinator on the status and conditions of APIS staff. As of end of August, no official communication has been received yet.
- In Diffa, Maradi and Tahoua regions, the security situation remains volatile. In Diffa, NSAGs continue to carry out criminal activities such as attacks and kidnapping of civilians with extortion purposes. The region is still marked by ongoing military operations in the area of Lake Chad. In Maradi, criminal activities resumed after a period of relative calm due to the enhanced presence of security forces, as well as the establishment of self-defense groups in some villages. Tahoua region is still prone to NSAGs activities such as attacks on civilians or the hijacking of NGO vehicles.

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Photo: WFP/Communication

Caption: WFP distribution site

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
265 m	200 m	38 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.

- During the rainy season, flooding has been significantly affecting communities in the Tillabéri, Maradi, Tahoua and Agadez regions, with 51 fatalities as of 31 August, as well as substantial damage in terms of collapsed houses, lost livestock and severely damaged infrastructures. WFP is closely monitoring the situation. The Food Security Cluster (FSC) is supporting the Government's Food Crisis Unit (CCA) and humanitarian partners to assess the impact of flooding on food security and develop coordination tools allowing actors to better identify where gaps in the assistance remain, should any intervention be requested.

- WFP Niger continues to face major food pipeline gaps due to delays in the delivery of cereals by local suppliers, as well as the backlog of international procurement mechanisms in the framework of COVID-19 crisis. Where conditions allow it, WFP is considering cash-based transfers (CBT) instead of food distributions, to avoid lead times related to food procurement.

- **Lean season** A backlog from previous months due to procurement delays and subsequent deficit in certain food items, as well as access constraints linked to flooding or insecurity, caused August distributions to be continued into September. In Tillabéri region, flooding and security constraints severely affected the capacity of cooperating partners to carry out distributions. In Tahoua, food distributions were completed, while cash-based transfers will continue through September. In Maradi, distributions were suspended across some refugee sites due to frequent attacks by armed groups. In Diffa, distributions were almost completed and will be finalized in September. Overall, WFP reached between 800,000 and 1 million beneficiaries per month through lean season assistance, with achievement rates between 70 and 90 percent.

- WFP is in the process of preparing a second budget revision of its CSP (BR02), as the anticipated needs for 2021 are higher than the ones initially estimated due to the deterioration of the food security situation in the country and the scale-up of WFP operations (in the framework of resilience building activities and Adaptive Social Protection [ASP] programme assistance).

Food Security Cluster (FSC)

- The FSC attended consultations with Government and partners to update the analysis of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition, whose results published in April indicated that 5.6 million would be affected over the period June-August 2020.

- The FSC and partners are working on the elaboration of the Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan 2021 (HNO/HRP). A matrix on lessons learned from the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) 2020 was shared among NGOs partners and UN agencies for inputs. The results of this exercise served as a base for the preparation of the chronogram of the HPC 2021.

Monitoring

- There were significant increases in the market prices of the main cereals due to the depletion of farmers and traders' stocks (lean season) and challenges faced in supply chains due to COVID-19 measures. Local cereal prices are estimated to be 10-20 percent higher than the 5-year average, and 35-45 percent higher than in 2019.

Air Services

- After a four-month suspension, UNHAS Niger flights resumed as of 20 July, following authorization from the Ministry of Health and Civil aviation authorities. From 20 July to 31 August 2020, UNHAS transported 680 passengers. From 25 August, UNHAS temporarily readjusted its schedule to serve all destinations with one aircraft, while the other one was under maintenance due to a technical issue.

- WFP's Global Passenger Service operated its last flight from the passenger hub in Accra on 15 August, since reliable commercial airlines resumed their flights in the country.

Donors

Donors to WFP Niger in 2020 include Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and USA. Additional support has been provided by UN CERF, UNAIDS and UNICEF.