



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Niger Country Brief SEPTEMBER 2020



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 3.9 percent, the highest in Africa. While 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), a joint analysis in April 2020 estimated that the food security and livelihoods of 5.6 million people could be affected by the impact of COVID-19 during June-August 2020, nearly doubling from the pre-COVID-19 baseline.

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 coupled with socioeconomic deteriorations.

WFP's emergency response assists refugees, IDPs and host communities in Diffa, Tillabéri, Tahoua, and Maradi regions. 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 2020. As of 30 September, Niger had 1,197 confirmed cases of infections, 1,114 people recovered and 69 deaths. The WFP response has prioritized 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.



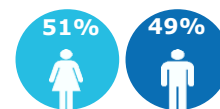
In Numbers

9,534 mt of food assistance distributed in August

USD 4.8 m cash-based transfers made in August

USD 42.1 m six months net funding requirements (October 2020 – March 2021)

1,354,430 people assisted in August



Operational Updates

- The third monthly distribution of the WFP 2020 lean season response in the framework of the government's *Plan de Soutien*, was completed on 9 September, reaching 855,935 beneficiaries.
- On 2 September, the Government of Niger, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a *Note Verbale* imposing military escorts for all diplomatic and international organisations' travels outside the boundaries of major cities throughout the country. **Although WFP operations are not suspended, this measure is preventing WFP from accessing its project sites and ensuring adequate coordination and supervision of ongoing activities.** Although WFP has made additional operational adjustments through remote monitoring, using third-party partners and using the government's technical services to continue delivering assistance, WFP's operational capacity will be affected if the ban is prolonged.
- WFP and the government High Commission for the 3N Initiative "Nigerians Nourish Nigerians" (HC3N) **signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) and workplan covering the period from September to December 2020.** A 2021-2024 MoU will be available once consultations between HC3N, relevant ministries, and WFP are completed later this year.
- WFP Niger has finalised its emergency response strategy to assist flood victims in all regions** of the country in close collaboration with the Government and partners. WFP plans to target approximately 260,000 beneficiaries with three months of assistance through unconditional food and cash assistance. The strategy will evolve in line with the situation on the ground. WFP will use available resources to organize an immediate first round of distributions but will need additional funds for the reimbursement of the internal loan and for the next two rounds of distributions.
- As part of the government-led COVID-19 response, WFP is supporting the scale up of the National Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) programme. **In partnership with the Government, World Bank, and UNICEF, WFP has provided cash assistance to 8,550 households affected by the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in the Tahoua region in September.** WFP has reached 60,000 people so far through the ASP programme and aims to assist a total of 670,000 beneficiaries in the coming weeks through additional pledged funding.
- On 23 September, **the Government of Niger, WFP, UNICEF, and UNFPA officially launched the joint programme "Breaking Barriers for Girls' Education" for the promotion of quality education in Niger,** and to encourage a return to school for children outside the education system. This programme will reach a total of 94,450 beneficiaries in the regions of Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabéri.

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Photo: WFP/Communication

Caption: Adaptive social protection cash distributions in Tahoua region.

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**

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

| 2020 Total Requirement (in USD) | 2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 265 m | 228 m | 42 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.

Focus area: Resilience building

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.

- The Government has **postponed the reopening of preschools, primary and secondary schools from 1 to 15 October** on the entire national territory, as a high number of households affected by the ongoing flooding emergency are still in the process of being relocated to safer territory. Accordingly, WFP will postpone deliveries of food stocks for school canteens to ensure that the relevant staff are present when food items are delivered and stored in the schools, with school feeding activities starting immediately afterwards.
- Following the abduction on 24 June of eleven staff of a WFP's NGO cooperating partner in Bossey Bangou, in the Department of Torodi, **WFP was informed on 27 September that all staff had been released.** They are reportedly in good health and returned safely to Niamey on 27 September, accompanied by one of the NGO Coordinator.
- WFP Niger continues **facing major food gaps** due to delays in the delivery of food items by local suppliers, as well as the backlog of international procurement mechanisms in the framework of COVID-19 crisis.
- WFP is working on the **Local Food Procurement plan campaign 2020-2021**, which is aligned with local purchase policies. The plan will allow WFP to purchase at least 10 percent of the volume of local food procurement from smallholder Farmers (SHF). Feasibility will depend on the results of the coming harvest and ability of SHF to meet required commodity needs.
- Community-based nutrition and food assistance for assets (FFA) activities** previously put on hold because of COVID-19 measures are now able to resume.
- WFP is in the process of preparing a second **budget revision** of its Country Strategic Plan (BR02), as the anticipated needs for 2021 are higher than the ones initially estimated.

Food Security Cluster (FSC)

- Twenty-four FSC partners are coordinating responses to support the flooding response in Niger to cover eight regions in the country, 51 departments, and 129 communes. As of 21 September 2020, a total of 69,485 households (549,049 people) have been affected by the flooding, 69 people died, and more than 16 hectares of agricultural land were damaged.
- The 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan process is in progress. The cluster will continue using the Cadre Harmonisé methodology to estimate needs, and a Cadre Harmonisé workshop will be held from 9-14 November 2020 in Niamey.

Air Services

- In September 2020, UNHAS transported 814 passengers and 4 mt of cargo. Since 21 September, an UNHAS aircraft has been out of order after hitting a bird in Zinder. The aircraft is being repaired in Niamey. UNHAS continued to operate in September on a temporary readjusted schedule to serve all destinations with one aircraft.

Donors

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