



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Niger Country Brief OCTOBER 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.



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**

In Numbers

6,409 mt of food assistance distributed in **September**

USD 695,922 of cash-based transfers provided in **September**

USD 61 m six months net funding requirements
(November 2020 – April 2021)

643,704 people assisted in **September**



Strategic Updates

- WFP's Executive Director visited Niger on 7-9 October and undertook a field visit to resilience building sites in Simiri, in the Tillabéri region. He met with the Prime Minister and President of Niger, as well as with donors, UN agencies and NGO partners. The President of Niger congratulated the Executive Director for the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to WFP on 9 October.
- On 20 October, the Governments of Denmark, Germany, the EU and the UN hosted a high-level conference on Central Sahel. This high-level meeting was an opportunity for donors to share their priorities and commitments for the region, including funding pledges for next years.
- WFP played an active role in the EU-funded mission reviewing and updating the new five-year strategy of the Government's *Dispositif National de Prévention et de Gestion des Crises Alimentaires* (DNGPCA) and will pursue the discussions for a coherent and ambitious strategy. WFP is advocating to ensure that the Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) objectives and tools are better embedded in DNGPCA's activities and vision, and to strengthen synergies between the different bodies of the DNGPCA.

Operational Updates

- The *Note Verbale* issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 2 September remains in force, imposing military escorts to international organisations' travels outside city limits throughout the country. Together with partners, WFP continues to advocate for humanitarian access, which is now affecting all operations beyond insecure areas including those targeted by development and resilience operations.
- On 21-23 October, WFP accompanied the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) mission to Tahoua to follow up on the first phase of the implementation of the Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) programme in response to the impact of COVID-19 on food and nutrition security. The ASP response in urban areas of Tahoua has been funded by SDC, and was completed in October, with more than 60,000 vulnerable people (8,700 households) assisted through cash distributions. Preparations for the extension of the ASP response in rural areas is underway. The global ASP response in the country, in partnership with the Government, World Bank, and UNICEF is expected to reach a total of 672,000 affected people in urban and rural areas.

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Photo: WFP/ Adolescent girl receiving WFP's school grant

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
265 m	231 m	61 m*

*Six Month Net Funding Requirements as of 9 November 2020.

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, (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.

- WFP started providing critical food and cash assistance to vulnerable households affected by floods in all eight regions of the country, in close collaboration with the Government and partners. WFP plans to reach approximately 262,000 beneficiaries affected by the floods for the first of three planned months of assistance, pending resource availability. Starting from the second month, the number of beneficiaries will be reduced to approximately 182,000 people, following an analysis aimed at identifying the most vulnerable beneficiaries affected by the floods through the Household Economic Approach (HEA).
- Schools** have reopened on 15 October on the entire national territory. The reopening was postponed by two weeks as a high number of households affected by floods were being relocated to different sites. WFP has resumed school feeding activities accordingly.
- WFP Niger continues to face **major food shortage** due to delays in the delivery of food items, most notably due to international procurement's lead times. WFP Niger continues to timely communicate with donors whenever delays in the arrival of in-kind stocks risk to negatively impact the respect of expected projects' completion dates.
- In Maradi region, thanks to WFP's and other humanitarian actors' sustained advocacy efforts, local authorities finally lifted in October the suspension of distributions in three refugee sites that had been imposed in July, allowing WFP to reach around 17,300 beneficiaries.
- WFP is preparing to resume community-based participatory planning, livelihood activities and trainings for communities, cooperating partners and government technical services under its resilience building integrated approach, following the lift of the ban on large gatherings, imposed by the Government in the framework of COVID-19 preventative measures.

Assessments and Monitoring

- The **2021 Humanitarian Response Plan** process is in progress. The Food Security Cluster will continue using the Cadre Harmonisé methodology to estimate needs in the country.
- WFP Niger continues using its **Remote Monitoring System (RMS)** to collect data on outcome indicators. So far, three rounds of data collection have taken place (in May/June, July/August and September 2020). WFP Niger is working on an alternative plan to ensure the continuity of VAM/M&E activities in light of the ongoing access restrictions which limits the capacity of WFP staff (including field monitors) to follow the implementation of WFP activities in the field.
- WFP has made additional adjustments to its programme to mitigate the impact of the suspension of all missions in the field on the quality of the programme implementation and activities monitoring. The remote monitoring through mobile data collection is reinforced with the expansion of the third-party monitoring in other regions and active participation of the government's technical services in different phases.

Air Service

- UNHAS** aircraft that was under maintenance has been repaired. Hence, UNHAS service in Niger is fully operational and has returned to the usual flight schedule and the average monthly cargo and passengers.

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.