



SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## WFP NIGER Country Brief NOVEMBER 2020

**WFP  
SAYS  
NO to  
GENDER  
BASED  
VIOLENCE**

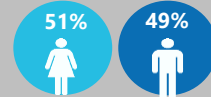
### In Numbers

**5,925 mt** of food assistance distributed in October

**USD 1.7 m** cash-based transfers provided in October

**USD 59 m** six months (December 2020-May 2021) net funding requirements

**719,569 people assisted** in October



### 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. The latest food security analysis (November 2020 Cadre Harmonisé) indicates that 1.2 million people in Niger are currently food insecure (October-December 2020). This figure is projected to increase to 1.7 million during the next lean season (June-August 2021).

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 November, Niger had 1,548 confirmed cases of infections, 1,210 people recovered and 72 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: **12.7% of children between 6-59 months**

Chronic malnutrition: **45.7% of children between 6-59 months**

### Operational Updates

- Presidential and legislative elections in Niger will take place on 27 December. In anticipation for any possible disruptions to operations, combined WFP November and December distributions are in progress to be finalized by the end of December.
- As part of the 16 Days of Activism to end Gender-Based Violence campaign, WFP was conducting awareness raising, visibility and advocacy activities through various communication platforms and social networks.
- The continued impact of access constraints is being felt across all operations, including crisis response and development/resilience sites, since the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a *Note Verbale* on 2 September restricting all diplomatic and international organization travel outside of all main city limits unless accompanied by military escort. This presented major challenges to WFP's ongoing planned activity implementation in all areas of the country. WFP put in place alternative monitoring measures to sustain operations but is also proactively supporting access negotiation efforts to resume field missions as soon as possible.
- WFP continued to provide emergency distributions to flood-affected households, in close collaboration with the Government and partners. As of 2 December, WFP reached some 240,000 people through food and cash distributions in all regions in the first round of planned distributions. Preparations for the second round of distributions are underway.
- WFP plans to reach over 670,000 beneficiaries through the Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) COVID-19 response in 2020. The ASP response in urban areas of Tahoua has been completed, where 8,774 households received cash distributions and the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) data has been collected. Despite the restriction of movement of UN staff, preparations for the extension of the ASP response in rural areas are underway through an advance funding with a collateral funding under negotiation and are expected to be completed by mid-December 2020. With regards to the ASP COVID-19 response in Agadez, discussions are still underway on how best to conduct this activity, taking into account all security risks. Coordination meetings are regularly held with UNICEF, World Bank and the Government to share latest updates on ASP COVID-19 response and harmonize the approaches including those related to ASP capacity strengthening priorities.
- WFP school canteens resumed mid-October in 922 schools targeting 155,000 beneficiaries including supporting cash grants for adolescent girls and issuing direct cash transfers in some of the schools. All COVID-19 preventives measures are in place, coupled with community sensitization.
- WFP resumed community food assistance for assets activities (FFA) for 237,000 beneficiaries in resilience sites, including new sites in Diffa for 25,000 beneficiaries under the joint WFP and UNICEF resilience and social cohesion project. All COVID-19 preventives measures are in place.

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/niger](http://www.wfp.org/countries/niger)

Photo: Classroom in Maradi Region

## Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

| 2020 Total Requirement (in USD) | 2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 265 m                           | 208 m                                 | 59 m*                                       |

\*Six Month Net Funding Requirements as of 8 December 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, (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.

- Supply chain/procurement delays:** WFP Niger continues to experience food pipeline gaps due to delays in the delivery of international procurement, however local purchases can now resume with the new harvest. WFP kept a dynamic pipeline analysis, opting for local purchases when market conditions allow, or international procurement where necessary, as well as an expansion of cash assistance in areas typically assisted with food, where conditions allowed it.

## Assessments and Monitoring

- Results from the November 2020 Cadre Harmonisé indicates that 1.2 million people are currently food insecure (October-December 2020). This figure will increase to 1.7 million during the next lean season (June-August 2021). These estimates project a moderate decrease (-15 percent) compared to last November 2019's Cadre Harmonisé results. These improvements were – in large part – attributed to an overall good rainy season, which improved pastoral conditions and contributed to average to good agricultural production projections. Notably, other contributing factors such as market prices and the security situation have deteriorated between 2019 and 2020.
- The Food Security Cluster is leading coordination efforts among partners in the finalization of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2021, taking into account the preliminary results of the Cadre Harmonisé, in coordination with the *Dispositif national de Prévention et de Gestion des Crises Alimentaires* (DNP-GCA).
- The results of the SMART survey, published in November 2020, show precarious acute malnutrition especially in the region of Diffa (20 percent of children aged 6-59 months) and in the region of Agadez (15 percent) and Zinder. At national level, the severe acute malnutrition rate is 2.6 percent while the moderate acute malnutrition prevalence is at 10.7 percent. In addition, chronic malnutrition rate at national level remains very high (45 percent, like in 2019). WFP is closely collaborating with UNICEF to formulate an appropriate response to this nutritional emergency.
- As a prelude to the start of the new marketing campaign, WFP in collaboration with the Government, NGO partners and UN agencies, conducted from October 28 to November 13 a market assessment. The main objective is to assess and analyze the performance of agricultural and livestock markets in light of the prospects of the new marketing year that had started in early October 2020. According to preliminary results, except for markets in certain insecure and/or landlocked areas in the regions of Tillabéri, Tahoua, Maradi and Diffa, the market situation in terms of supply is generally satisfactory. Cross-border flows have been made up of mainly cereal imports (maize, sorghum and imported rice) from neighboring countries (Benin, Burkina and Nigeria). Regarding the pricing situation, the survey results confirm an increase in the prices of the main cereals compared to last year and to the average of the last five years. These increases are more pronounced in pastoral and insecure areas.

## Air Service

- UNHAS service in Niger is fully operational and the number of passengers (1,496) and cargo (3,692 kg) transported during the month of November 2020 has significantly increased due to the availability of both aircrafts, with no technical failures or COVID-related suspensions over this period.

## Donors

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