WFP Niger
Country Brief
January 2021

Operational Context
Niger is a land-locked and food-deficit Sahelian country with a population of over 24.2 million (UNFPA, 2020) and an annual demographic growth of 3.9 percent, the highest in Africa. The results of the November 2020 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) estimated 1.2 million people to be food insecure during the October-December 2020 period and 1.7 million over the next lean season (June-August 2021). The Food Security Cluster (FSC) has revised the number of persons in need at 2 million, of which 1.3 million persons are being prioritized.

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, internally displaced persons (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 2 February 2021, Niger had 4,156 confirmed cases of infections, 3,044 people recovered and 140 deaths. WFP response has prioritized lifesaving assistance, while adjusting resilience activities and interventions to comply with all COVID-19 preventive 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
7,187 mt of food assistance distributed*
USD 11.8 m of cash-based transfers made*
USD 95.5 m six months (February to July 2021) net funding requirements.
1,464,937 people* assisted in December 2020

Operational Updates
- The start of 2021 was marked by a spike in attacks of non-state armed groups (NSAGs). On 2 January, NSAGs attack resulted in 105 deaths and 26 injuries in two villages in the southwestern region of Tillabéri. Further to the attack, WFP provided timely food assistance to 10,000 IDPs and vulnerable host populations through the rapid response mechanism (RRM).

- School feeding activities resumed alongside the reopening of schools on 4 January 2021. Canteens reopened in all 922 schools supported by WFP, targeting 155,000 beneficiaries. Cash transfers to school committees are underway in 554 schools out of the 922 schools supported by WFP.

- To support the Government with monitoring systems and databases, WFP is launching “School Connect”, a digital platform to access real-time information related to school meal activities, which will improve programme implementation. The pilot phase of the project will be implemented in 50 schools with canteens, including in insecure areas, starting in March 2021. A pre-pilot phase has been launched in eight schools in Tillabéri and Tahoua, where trainings of school staff are in preparation under the supervision of WFP’s IT team.

- WFP targeted approximately 260,000 people for the first round of emergency distributions to flood-affected households, and more than 180,000 people for the second round. Through the first round, WFP reached over 240,000 (92 percent) people in the eight regions. For the second round, targeted beneficiaries were reduced to 170,000, as assessments showed a lower number of vulnerable people. As of 21 January, 100 percent of the 170,000 beneficiaries targeted through the second round of distributions were assisted.

- WFP’s initial plan to scale up resilience activities to new sites in April 2020 and reach 180,000 new beneficiaries was postponed to early 2021 due to the government’s COVID-19 preventative measures. Preparations are ongoing, and activities are planned to start in February.

- BMZ regional workshops towards a harmonized Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) approach in the Sahel are being held from 19 January to 10 February with the aim of providing an operational exchange among WFP, UNICEF and the Word Bank and developing a concrete and harmonized action plan.

Operational Context

Contact info: chiara.cardosi@wfp.org
Country Director: Sény OUANE
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/niger
Photo: Credit: WFP/ Dourfaye Zouloukalleyni
Caption: Bagoune Village/nursery site

Income Level: Low
Acute malnutrition: 10.7% of children between 6-59

2019 Human Development Index: 189 out of 189
Chronic malnutrition: 45.7% of children between 6-59 months

*December figures are reflected here as January figures are not yet available
Six-Month Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2021 Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300 m</td>
<td>25 m</td>
<td>95.5 m*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Six-month net funding requirements as of 9 February 2021.

**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, (iv) ownership and programme implementation, and (v) knowledge management

**Strategic Result 6:** 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 COVID-19 distributions in the framework of the ASP were completed in all regions. Between September 2020 and January 2021, WFP assisted approximately 580,000 beneficiaries (more than 83,000 households) in 36 municipalities in the regions of Dosso, Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéri, Agadez and Zinder, with more than USD 7.4 million distributed through cash-based transfers to mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19.**

**A coordination meeting within the framework of the joint WFP/UNICEF project on Resilience and Social Cohesion between UNICEF, WFP and BMZ in Diffa was held online on 26 January 2021, where the two UN agencies presented the results achieved and the difficulties encountered during the first three months of implementation.**

**Assessments and Monitoring**

**Challenges**

- Access constraints continue to significantly affect all WFP operations beyond insecure areas, including development and resilience sites, as the Note Verbale issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 2 September remains in force, restricting all diplomatic and international organization travel outside of all main city limits unless accompanied by military escort. The Humanitarian Country Team continues to advocate for a solution.

**Donors**

Donors to WFP Niger in 2021 include Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and USA. Additional support has been provided by UN CERF and UNICEF.