



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Niger Country Brief February 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* 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 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 22 February 2021, Niger had 4,740 confirmed cases of infections, 4,250 people recovered and 172 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.



Income Level: **Low**

2019 Human Development Index:
189 out of 189

Acute malnutrition: **10.7%**
of children between 6-59

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

In Numbers

7,187 mt of food assistance distributed*

USD 11.8 m of cash-based transfers made*

USD 112 m six months (March – August 2021) net funding requirements.

923,162 people* assisted
in January 2021



*February figures are not yet available

Operational Updates

- **The 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the *Plan de Soutien* were launched on 4 February.** The total budget is USD 523 million for the HRP and USD 351 million the *Plan de Soutien*. WFP plans to cover around 1 million (60 percent) of the beneficiaries targeted by the *Plan de Soutien*.
- **WFP's resilience integrated package activities** (Food for Assets [FFA], education and nutrition) have gradually resumed from December 2020 and are active in all existing sites since January 2021, targeting 474,000 beneficiaries and ensuring the observance of the COVID-19 preventive measures. New site will be launched in March 2021, targeting a total of 180 000 new beneficiaries.
- **WFP aims to support the *Dispositif National de Prévention et de Gestion des Crises Alimentaires (DNP-GCA)* in building a more shock-responsive Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) system.** As there is the potential for additional funding for the ASP COVID-19 response, WFP is now consulting with the Government, UNICEF, and the World Bank to design the second phase of the assistance. The first phase was completed at the end of January.
- **The BMZ regional Workshop "Towards a harmonized ASP approach in the Sahel"** was carried out between 19 January and 10 February around the UNICEF and WFP joint social protection programme in Mali, Niger, and Mauritania. The workshop aimed at providing an operational exchange amongst WFP, UNICEF, and the World Bank to formulate a common understanding of ASP and enhance coordination between the three agencies. Through the workshop, WFP Niger developed a joint WFP-UNICEF-World Bank action plan on supporting the strengthening of the government's ASP.
- A webinar on the **Pana Africa Great Green Wall (PAGGW)** project was held on 17 February to discuss the USD 20 billion in funding pledges announced at the "One Planet Summit Biodiversity" on 11 January 2021 in Paris, and the importance of identifying the appropriate policy and coordination actions to successfully confirm this funding. WFP is advocating for the financing of existing programmes, such as WFP's resilience activities, as a good way to scale up the PAGGW programme.
- Following the announcement of the results of the presidential elections on 23 February, **demonstrations and civil unrest erupted in Niamey and Zinder**, resulting in at least two deaths and 470 arrests. Mobile data connection was shut down from 24 February to 5 March. Final decision is pending from the constitutional court.

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Photo: Credit: WFP/ Dourfaye Zouloukalleyni

Caption: Toufour Village/Food Distribution

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
300 m	111 m	112 m*

*Six-month net funding requirements as of 9 March 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 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*

- 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.

- Despite the reopening of Nigeria's borders on 16 January, the flow of cereals from northern Nigeria is operating at a very slow pace. **A generalized increase in the prices of millet and sorghum, the two staple foods, is anticipated over the second quarter of 2021.** This will have an important implication for WFP's operational costs for food procurement. In coordination with its partners in the *Système d'Information des Marchés Agricoles (SIMA)*, WFP will continue monitoring market conditions to inform its strategy for scaling up cash-for-work programmes in certain regions.

Assessments and Monitoring

- WFP is working with the Government and partners on **the next national food security household survey (EVIAM)**, which is the main data source for the upcoming March *Cadre Harmonisé (CH)* analysis. Due to funding constraints, the normal survey design had to be amended, and the survey this year will only cover priority departments (with high food insecurity and/or insecurity). WFP is providing both financial and technical support for this survey, in particular for remote data collection in hard-to-reach areas.
- Due to the COVID-19 preventative measures and access constraints, WFP continues to rely on cooperating partners and the Government to deliver assistance and made operational adjustments through **third-party monitoring (TPM) and remote data collection through the remote monitoring system (RMS)**.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In February 2021, UNHAS transported 507 passengers and 7,2 mt of cargo, and performed two medical evacuations. Considering confirmed donors' contributions and UNHAS cost-recovery rates, **UNHAS is currently financed until 21 May 2021.**

Challenges

- **The 11-day mobile data network shutdown affected the connectivity of most of the WFP staff who work from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as office dependant staff advised to work from home as a security precaution leading up to the election announcement.** The internet shutdown also resulted in the delayed validation of the distribution data of WFP's activities. **UNHAS services were also affected**, and informed users of the difficulty in processing booking requests, issuing tickets, and publishing flight schedules. As a result, UNHAS organized a temporary new booking system to allow manual reservations. In case of further disruptions to internet services in the coming days, WFP intends to increase the capacity of the satellite back-up links in all offices.
- **Access constraints continue to 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 High-level Committee on Access, chaired by the Prime Minister, met on 10 February.** A small joint working group composed of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and government members was put in place to develop consensual alternatives. A proposal for viable alternatives has been sent to the prime minister.

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.