



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Niger

Country Brief

April 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 March 2021 *Cadre Harmonisé* estimates 1.6 million people to be food insecure during the March-May 2021 period and 2.3 million over the upcoming lean season period (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, 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 28 April 2021, Niger had 5,204 confirmed cases, including 4,836 people recovered and 191 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**

2020 Human Development Index ranking: **189 out of 189**

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

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

Contact info: Chiara Cardosi (chiara.cardosi@wfp.org)

Country Director: Sory OUANE

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/niger

Photo: Credit: WFP/ Amadou Baraze

Caption: Kablewa/Diffa school meals in emergencies

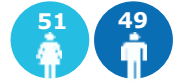
In Numbers

933.7 mt* of food assistance distributed

USD 3.62 m* of cash-based transfers made

USD 100.8 m* six months (May–October 2021) net funding requirements.

1.35 million* people assisted in April 2021



* These are preliminary figures.

Strategic Updates

- WFP participated in a workshop organized from 20-22 April to discuss the **new strategy of the *Dispositif National de Prévention et Gestion des Crises Alimentaires (DNP-GCA)***. The new strategy aims to reinforce coordination and ensure more coherence in the response and strengthen the social protection system through the consolidation and scale up of existing activities. The workshop also provided an opportunity to discuss the Adaptive Social Protection Plan (ASP) component of the new strategy.

Operational Updates

- Lean season response:** WFP is collaborating with the Government of Niger and partners to plan and implement the lean season response **but is concerned that there may still be a significant gap in the coverage of the response compared to the revised needs**. The March *Cadre Harmonisé* (CH) results showed a 32 percent increase in the number of people in need during the upcoming lean season (June-August 2021), for a total of 2.3 million people. Due to financial constraints, WFP can only target 680,000 people (74,000 for the pastoral lean season response, which began in April, and 606,000 for the agricultural lean season response, which will begin in June) as opposed to the 1.3 million that was initially planned. WFP is also concerned about the high food prices, which have a negative impact on local food procurement and on the feasibility of cash distributions as an alternative modality of intervention given the limited availability of food stocks.
- The food security and nutrition situation in Maradi region** is deteriorating, due to the general increase in prices and decrease in availability of cereals from Nigeria. The situation is worsened by the unusual early return of herders to pastoral areas north of Maradi, which risks increasing the price of livestock feed and sparking conflicts over access to grazing areas and water points. WFP quickly reacted to this situation by taking the herders into account in targeting its pastoral emergency response.
- Crisis response:** In April, WFP assisted 321,000 beneficiaries through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) and Protracted Emergency assistance in Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua and Tillabéri.
- Following the attack on 21 March by a non-State armed group in the department of Tillia (Tahoua region), WFP immediately started **providing food assistance to 3,447 internally displaced persons (IDPs)** in April through the RRM. Deliveries to assist 1,167 more IDPs are planned for the end of May.

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
300.5 m	46.1 m	100.8 m*

*Six-month net funding requirements as of 16 April 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, (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

- 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.

• **Food assistance For Assets (FFA) activities:** In the framework of the scale-up of its resilience building programme, WFP launched its FFA activities in new sites in Diffa, Dosso, Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder, targeting an additional 170,000 new beneficiaries and bringing the total number of beneficiaries assisted under FFA activities to 645,000, including beneficiaries from previously targeted sites.

• **School feeding:** In April, WFP reached 250,000 beneficiaries in more than 1,500 schools through its school feeding assistance. Furthermore, on 20 April, WFP began the **distribution of school grants to 17,400 adolescent girls** as part of the project aimed at encouraging households to keep their children in schools, reinforcing girls' education and preventing early marriages and pregnancies. The targeted girls are all from poor households assisted by WFP through its FFA activities.

• WFP continues to implement "**School Connect**", a digital platform to access real-time information aimed at improving data collection and monitoring of the school meals programme. As of end of April, the pilot phase of the project is being implemented in 50 schools, including 34 schools situated in the insecure areas or Tillaberi, Diffa and Tahoua.

• **Crise Alimentaire au Centre Sahel (CRIACLES) project:** A joint mission with the non-governmental organization partner (GRET) was organized from 26-28 April with the objectives of: i) presenting the CRIACLES project to regional, departmental and communal authorities; and ii) advocating for the acquisition of land to be used for the construction of a fortified infant formula processing unit in the city of Bouza.

• From 19 to 24 April, the **Fortification of Processed Food Products (FOPAT)** project coordinator and the WFP sub-offices project focal points of Niamey, Tahoua, Maradi and Zinder participated in the training of trainers organized by the partner GRET to strengthen the knowledge and skills of the facilitators, to enable them to implement quality community awareness activities within the framework of the project's awareness campaign on household nutrition.

• The annual purchase from smallholder farmers ended on 19 April 2021. WFP initially planned to purchase 4,100 mt of various commodities from smallholder farmer organizations through the Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) programme. However, only **2,394 mt were delivered** to WFP due to high food prices and low food stocks. Despite the slight shortfall, WFP is not facing programmatic implications.

• WFP is preparing to **shift from food to cash-based assistance for refugees** located in Maradi, following appropriate sensitization of beneficiaries and local actors. *Further extension of cash distributions beyond the "villages d'opportunité" will be considered at a later date based on the evolving market and security conditions.*

Donors

The top 5 donors to WFP Niger Country Strategic Plan 2020-2024 include Germany, USA, Canada, European Commission and the UK. Additional support has been provided by UNICEF, UNAIDS and UN CERF.