



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Niger Country Brief June 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 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 provides support to refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities in Diffa, Tillabéri, Tahoua, and Maradi regions. In areas of chronic food insecurity, WFP strengthens community resilience through 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 end of June 2021, 5,479 confirmed cases are reported, including 5,205 recovered cases and 193 deaths. WFP response has prioritized lifesaving assistance, while adjusting activities to comply with all COVID-19 preventive measures. 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**

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

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

Contact info: Lorenzo Tacchella (lorenzo.tacchella@wfp.org)

Country Director: Sory OUANE

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

Main Photo: Credit: WFP/ Dourfaye Zouloukalleyni

Caption: Rabi Ousman, Village of Gochiro

In Numbers

5,189 mt* of food assistance distributed

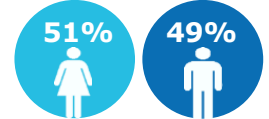
USD 1.62 m* of cash-based transfers made

USD 94.2 m six months (July – December 2021) net funding requirements.

1.16 million* people assisted

In June 2021

**These are preliminary figures.*



Strategic Updates

- On 1 July, WFP **extended the Level 3 Emergency Response in the Central Sahel** (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger) for another 6 months, until 31 December. This decision was made in respect of the scale and complexity of the emergency, the humanitarian impact on civilians, the access constraints, and the reduced assistance of WFP due to the lack of funds. The extension underlines the need for continued support in both funding and expertise in access negotiation.
- As part of the **emerging WFP-GIZ partnership**, WFP and GIZ/PRO-RES carried out 2 joint missions in Tahoua and Zinder regions and 2 workshops. The latter were to identify and better define key collaboration opportunities in WFP's resilience intervention areas for enhanced complementarity and synergy. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is currently being drafted between the two agencies.
- WFP-UNICEF 'Enhanced Partnership':** On 18 June, WFP and UNICEF held a meeting to analyze the progress of the joint activities implemented. It was decided that going forward, management coordination meetings are necessary to keep track of progress made and to discuss about specific topics to better clarify roles and responsibilities and inform more concretely complementarities and implementation.

Operational Updates

- Lean season response:** For the pastoral lean season response (April-June), WFP is assisting 75,000 people with 3 months of unconditional food and cash distributions in the regions of Tahoua, Tillabéri, Zinder and Maradi. Due to slight operational delays met, the assistance will be completed in the first week of July. From the second week, WFP will begin assisting 240,000 people under the agricultural lean season response (June-August), bringing the total target under WFP crisis response component to 605,000 beneficiaries. Due to funding constraints, WFP had to downscale the target from 1.3 million to 605,000 beneficiaries and had to reduce food rations from 96 to 80 percent.
- Resilience:** WFP is relaunching the Three-Pronged Approach (3PA) tools for 2021 to strengthen the design, planning and implementation of multi-partner and sectorial programmes. In June, WFP organized trainings with the Government's technical services and the Ministry of Environment that will support the implementation of 120 community-based participatory planning exercises over the next six months.
- Education:** The provision of hot meals continued in all WFP-assisted schools until the closure of schools for the summer holidays at the end of June, after which WFP plans to distribute take-home rations with leftover food stocks before the start of the next school year.

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	83.5 m	94.2 m*

*Six-month net funding requirements as of 7 July 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

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).

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 people, 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 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

- Provide UNHAS flight services to partners, to access areas of humanitarian interventions.
- Provide logistics, ITC and coordination services to partners as well as other supply chain services and expertise on demand.

- Nutrition:** WFP supported the nutrition unit of the Food Crises Unit/National System for the Prevention and Management of Food Crises (CCA/DNPGCA) and the Nutrition Directorate (DN) in developing training documents and in carrying out trainings to strengthen national capacities in the operationalization of infant flour distribution to children aged 6 to 23 months malnutrition screening and referral and coordination of blanket supplementary feeding. Training sessions were organized from 31 May to 4 June with DNPGCA and partners involved in the lean season response activities in Zinder, Maradi, Tahoua, Dosso, Tillabéri, Niamey.
- With the Ministry of Health, WFP is carrying out **analyses to assess the feasibility of cash-based transfers (CBTs)** for malnutrition treatment activities in health centers. The use of CBTs in health centers would strengthen local actors' ownership of nutrition activities and support local producers through the purchase of local food and fortified products.
- Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programme:** 500,000 FFA beneficiaries are targeted for the lean season assistance to ensure that development gains are not affected by this difficult period. **WFP is renewing its MOUs** with the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Livestock, Hydraulics and with universities to ensure technical quality of FFA activities.
- With UNICEF, UNFPA and the Government, WFP launched **the gender and protection analysis in Tahoua, Tillabery and Diffa**. The primary data includes both quantitative and qualitative data collected through key informant interviews, household surveys and focus group discussions with children between the ages of 10 and 17 years of age. A final report is expected by the end of August. This analysis will enable WFP and partners to establish targeted actions to promote gender equality and the *do no harm* approach in hotspot areas.

Assessment and Monitoring

- In June, **WFP completed the data collection for the Market Functionality Index (MFI)**, WFP's global market assessment methodology in 81 markets across the country. Given concerns around unusually high food prices in Niger and across the region, WFP has continued to monitor prices to ensure that in areas where WFP is providing cash, the transfer value is still sufficient to cover minimum food needs given current local prices. WFP has also been closely monitoring the impact of its cash operations on local markets to ensure that distributions are not causing inflation. Results show that distributions have no discernible impacts on local prices.
- Since the new *Note Verbale* was issued on 10 May, in addition to continuing its remote monitoring via phone calls as well as through third-party monitors, WFP was also able to **resume on-site monitoring in over 90 locations** across the country.

Donors

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