



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Niger Country Brief July 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 pastoral lean season (March-May 2021) and 2.3 million over the agricultural 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 provides support to 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 end of July, 2021 there have been 5,604 confirmed cases, 5,304 people cured and 195 deaths. WFP response has adjusted lifesaving and resilience activities 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 ranking: **189 out of 189**

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

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

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**Photo:** Credit: WFP/ Mariama Ali Souley, Dosso region

**Caption:** Rural women's empowerment

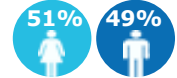
## In Numbers

**4,741.6 mt\*** of food distributed

**USD 2.68 m\*** of cash-based transfers made

**USD 43.16 m** six months (August 2021 – January 2022) net funding requirements.

**1.25 million\*** people assisted  
In June 2021



\* These are preliminary figures.

## Strategic Updates

- On 12-13 July, WFP participated in the **launch workshop for the elaboration of the new Social and Economic Development Plan (PDES 2022-2026)**, organized by the Ministry of Planning and supported by the Resident Coordinator Office (RCO). The PDES outlines the Government's development priorities and constitutes the main guiding document for the stakeholders' contributions to the Government's development vision. Jointly through the UN System, WFP plans to actively support the Government in the elaboration of the document, which is expected to be finalized by December 2021. WFP will also support the UN Country Team in the elaboration of the new Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the UN Sustainable Development Framework.
- On 1 July 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture and WFP launched the **"Joint Sahel Programme in response to the Challenges of Climate Change, Conflict and Development (SD3C)" project**. Funded by IFAD, the objective of this six-year project (2021-2026) is to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable communities, by reinforcing the livelihoods of small-scale producers, particularly women and young people living in the cross-border areas of the Tillabery and Diffa regions. All 3 of the Rome-Based Agencies (RBAs) will support the implementation of the project.

## Operational Updates

- Lean season response:** Due to operational issues, the pastoral lean season distributions (April-June) were completed in July. WFP assisted 75,000 people with three months of unconditional food and cash distributions. From the second week of July, WFP planned to assist 240,000 people for the agricultural lean season response. Due to operational delays linked to funding and procurement constraints, the beneficiaries are currently receiving cumulative distributions for June and July. Under the protracted crisis, through which WFP provides year-long unconditional food assistance for beneficiaries in conflict-affected areas and in the Framework of the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), WFP initially planned to assist 365,000 beneficiaries. However, during the implementation phase, thanks to additional funds that were received, this number was revised to 449,000, bringing the total target for WFP's emergency response during the agricultural lean season from 605,000 to approximately 689,000.
- Approximately 27,000 adolescent girls received cash grants (school scholarships) to cover the last quarter of 2020-2021 school year.** Out of this total, 11,000 beneficiaries are targeted in emergency areas and, on top of the cash grants, received a multi-sectoral package of activities (including nutrition, WASH and Social Behaviour Change Communication) within the framework of the joint Breaking Barriers to Girls Education (BBGE) initiative in partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA.

| 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                            | 187 m                                 | 43.16 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 (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.

- **Flooding:** As of 2 August, more than 46,000 people have been already affected by floods (of which 65% in Maradi region) and 19 people lost their life. All the affected population is currently being assisted by the government. WFP is following the situation closely with the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management (MAHGC) and is modelling an implementation plan which will target more than 200,000 beneficiaries in case floods will affect the country further and the government will need the assistance. The Regional Climate Outlook forum for the Sahel (PRESASS) is forecasting above normal rains of more than 40%, a high likelihood of erratic rainfall distribution, and higher than normal river levels in the whole region. The MAHGC is foreseeing that more than 580,000 people will be affected by flooding this year.
- Between 1-3 July, during a formal visit to Diffa, **Mohamed Bazoum, president of the Republic of Niger, stated that he will organize the voluntary return of the displaced population in the region to their respective villages by the end of the year**, as those villages are now considered safe. In the first phase, organized entirely by the Government, 26,000 IDPs will return voluntarily to 19 villages, while in the second phase, 130,000 IDPs will be targeted for their return in more than 170 villages. **WFP, in consultation with OCHA, is preparing a contingency plan** to assist the returnees, especially taking into consideration the strong possibility of floods in the coming weeks.
- **In consultation with Government and partners, WFP is providing further training and support on the use and mainstreaming of the Three-pronged Approach (3PA) tools for 2021**, with the aim to strengthen the design, planning and implementation of programmes in resilience building, productive safety nets, disaster-risk reduction, and preparedness. The 3PA is comprised of three processes at three levels: Integrated Context Analysis (ICA) at the national level, Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) at the sub-national level and Community-Based Participatory Planning (CBPP) at the local level.
- **Adaptive Social Protection (ASP):** WFP is working with the government and key partners to support the scale-up and institutionalization of ASP. This effort builds on the joint WFP-UNICEF ASP programme implemented in close coordination with the government and the World Bank, in response to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic. WFP and UNICEF have finalized a joint proposal requesting additional funding and time-extension until July 2023, which would allow both agencies to continue the implementation of the ASP response to the most vulnerable people, as well as support national systems to become more shock-responsive, nutrition- and child-sensitive.

## Assessment and Monitoring

- Given rising food prices in the West Africa region, WFP has continued to closely monitor market prices across Niger, in partnership with the Agricultural Market Information System (SIMA). WFP also launched data collection for the Market Functionality Index (MFI), WFP's global market assessment methodology, which will help refine the choice of modality (food or cash) and the cash transfer value.
- **Work on the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)** analysis continues to advance; the draft analysis was presented in July to each relevant Cluster for discussion and inputs. Once the MEB is validated by all Clusters, work can begin on revising the base transfer values for cash assistance, starting with the Food Security Cluster which represents the highest volume of humanitarian cash assistance in Niger.

## 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.