



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Niger Country Brief August 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* estimated that 1.6 million people were 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 deterioration of socioeconomic situation.

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 August 2021, there have been 5,753 confirmed cases, 5,479 people cured and 196 deaths. WFP response 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**

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

2019 Human Development Index ranking: **189 out of 189**

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

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Photo: Credit: WFP/ Idi Alkassoum, Goudoumaria, Diffa region

Caption: Reforestation campaign

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

In Numbers

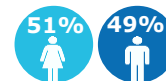
1,628.2 mt* of food distributed

USD 3.13 m* of cash-based transfers made

USD 55.6 m six months (September 2021 – February 2022) net funding requirements.

0.9 million* people assisted

In August 2021



* Preliminary figures.

Strategic Updates

- In August, WFP began preparations to undertake a third **budget revision** (BR03) to its Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2020 - 2024), in response to the sustained impact of food insecurity, high food prices, the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19, climate induced drought and flooding, along with persistent insecurity. BR03 outlines plans to increase the number of people WFP will reach with food and nutrition assistance under the emergency component of the CSP in 2022.
- In the context of the **government policy aiming at enabling the return of IDPs and refugees to their areas of origin**, WFP continued to work through a unified approach with the wider humanitarian community to ensure a return process in full respect of humanitarian principles and Nigerian law on IDPs management.
- Over August, WFP continued to support the Government, under the leadership of the High Commission for the Nigerian Nourish Nigerian (HC3N) Initiative, in preparations for the UN Food Systems summit scheduled for September. A series of events took place, bringing together key stakeholders to discuss on solutions for positive changes in food systems and ensure collective commitment from relevant stakeholders. Moreover, WFP initiated engagement with the Government on joining the **School Meals Coalition**, a global initiative which aims to expand school feeding programmes and make nutritious meals available for all children by 2030.

Operational Updates

- Lean season response:** Between June and August, WFP reached more than 637,000 persons (51 percent women and 49 percent men) through emergency food and nutrition assistance in the regions of Diffa, Maradi, Tillabéri, Tahoua and Zinder. Due to the funding constraints, ration reductions remained in place, with WFP only able to cover 80 percent of the food ration for all crisis- affected beneficiaries. Distributions will continue in September 2021.
- Flooding:** The Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management (MAHGC) estimated that more than 580,000 people would be affected by floods in 2021. As of 30 August 2021, more than 158,000 people were affected by floods (of whom 45 percent in Maradi region), 67 people lost their life, and an estimated 3,000 hectares of cropland were devastated. WFP developed an implementation plan targeting 200,000 beneficiaries with three-months of assistance. Through internal lending mechanisms, WFP secured USD 1.5 million to kickstart the response.
- Under the **Fortification des Produits Alimentaires Transformés** (FOPAT) project which aims to improve the quality and availability of nutritional foods in Niger, several missions were undertaken to launch processing and production units; namely enriched oil processing units in Zinder, and a production unit for millet flour fortified with iron and folic acid in the Maradi region.

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 | 224.7 m | 73 m* |

*Six-month net funding requirements as of 20 August 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.

• In August, under the **Crise Alimentaire au Centre Sahel (CRIACLES) project**, WFP prepared a draft plan on Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) activities, in collaboration with the Directorate of Nutrition, with a view to reinforcing good food practices. The plan will complement the project's wider focus on enhancing the production, storage, and marketing capacity of local producers involved in the transformation of key commodities such as flour and oil, whilst increasing the availability of, and wider access to, these products through stronger market linkages.

• **Adaptive Social Protection (ASP):** WFP is supporting the scale-up and institutionalization of ASP, building on the learning from the joint 2020 WFP-UNICEF ASP COVID programme and implemented in coordination with the government and the World Bank. In August, a joint mission with WFP, World Bank, UNICEF, and government partners took place to conclude data collection in Tahoua as part of the national Unified Social Registry (USR). Data was collected following a harmonized methodology and populations targeted on basis of the results of the March 2021 *Cadre Harmonisé* exercise.

• **Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced (RISE) II collaboration:** Following missions with BHA representatives in Zinder in July and in Maradi in March, WFP, and RISE II partners (CRS, CARE, Save the Children, Winrock) formulated recommendations to improve integration among interventions and community ownership, which will inform the revision of three RISE II-WFP memoranda of understanding.

• **Climate services:** During this year's rainy season, in collaboration with the National Department of Meteorology and as part of the ongoing project to strengthen national capacity for climate Forecast-based-Financing, WFP provided climate information services to farmers and government agents for informed decision making in planning agro-pastoral activities. This initiative is crucial in informing anticipatory action tools and decision making amongst the different partners at local level.

• In August, **UNHAS** transported 1,279 passengers and 5.2 mt of cargo. Only one flight was cancelled during the reporting period. At current resourcing levels, UNHAS operations are only secured until mid-November.

Assessment and Monitoring

• WFP continued work on a **food gap analysis** to inform the revision of ration sizes (food and cash) across the different activities under the CSP, in coordination with the Government, food security cluster (FSC) partners, and cash working group (CWG) partners. These revised rations will be implemented from January 2022 onwards.

• **WFP continued to closely monitor market prices across Niger in August**, the peak of the lean season when prices are highest. Price monitoring is done in partnership with the Agricultural Market Information System (SIMA) and aims to inform potential changes in transfer modality/ cash transfer value, as needed.

• In August, WFP carried out the midline survey of its resilience activities across the country. A total of 2,400 households (81 percent men and 19 percent women) - were interviewed through in-person surveys. WFP also continued to carry out post-distribution monitoring (PDM) surveys for Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) via phone calls.

Challenges

• **Funding constraints:** WFP continues to face significant funding gaps for its operations. Additional funding is required for the emergency response, with significant lack of resources for both food and cash from October. In addition to ration reductions, funding constraints are resulting in reduced coverage of assistance to vulnerable populations; for example, in Diffa WFP reached less than half of planned beneficiaries since the beginning of the year

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