Chronic: 49%

Further information:
Caption:
Country

WFP has been adapting transfer modalities, programmatic changes to activities and distributions, and mitigating health risks, implementing operational and response has confirmed cases, Government.

chronic food insecurity, WFP supports in Diffa, Tillabéri, Tahoua, and Maradi regions. In areas of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities 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 3 October 2021, there have been 6,042 confirmed cases, 5,776 people cured and 203 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.

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.

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In Numbers

1,717 mt* of food distributed
USD 1.6 m* of cash-based transfers made
USD 61.2 m six months (October 2021 to March 2022) net funding requirements.

0.9 million* people assisted
In September 2021

* These are preliminary figures.

Strategic Updates

- WFP is committed to support the Government of Niger for the operationalization of its pledge made during the Food Systems Summit (23 September) to build a sustainable and nutrition-sensitive food system to protect Nigerians from hunger and malnutrition and guarantee conditions for full participation in national production to improve income by 2025.
- Returnees: Since July, the Government is organizing the voluntary return of IDPs to their home villages before the year's end. WFP is already present in these areas providing assistance to vulnerable households based on vulnerability criteria. However, WFP and partners are collaborating to advocate to develop a Returnee plan with the Government, ensuring that protection, security and social services are in place in full respect of humanitarian principles and existing Nigerien law on IDP management.
- Launch of the elaboration of the new Social and Economic Development Plan (PDES, 2022-2026) by the Ministry of Planning in collaboration with the Resident Coordinator Office. The PDES is the document outlining Government priorities and the main guide for stakeholder contribution to the government's 5-year vision. WFP is supporting the plan through the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) process.
- The High Commissioner for the 3N initiative (HC3N), with the Dispositif National de Prevention et de Gestion des Catastrophes et Crises Alimentaires (DNPGCA), launched a series of workshops to capitalize on experiences from the 2016-2020 HC3N action plan to inform the 2021-2025 HC3N action plan. WFP supports this process by sharing its good practices and lessons learned regarding emergency response, resilience building and adaptive social protection programmes.

Operational Updates

- Flooding: As of 24 September, more than 238,000 people have been affected, 77 people lost their life and 7,000 hectares of cropland have been 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 distribution plan for 130,000 people, but urgent funding is required to cover the gap.
- Since 10 September, fires have been raging in the Abalak department of Tahoua, destroying over 112,000 hectares of pastureland for September only, and continue to spread to neighboring municipalities despite Government efforts to contain it. WFP is monitoring the situation in coordination with Government and partners and is enhancing sensitizations on measures to avoid future fires including in its resilience sites.
- WFP is actively supporting the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs on the operationalization of the nexus agenda.
## WFP Country Strategic Plan (2020–2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Result</th>
<th>Strategic Outcome</th>
<th>Focus area</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Crisis response</td>
<td>Provide an integrated food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations (refugees, IDPs, host communities and returnees)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Resilience building</td>
<td>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)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Nutritionally vulnerable populations including children 6-59 months, pregnant women and girls, adolescent girls, in targeted areas have improved nutritional status by 2024</td>
<td>Resilience building</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Resilience building</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Resilience building</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Assessment and Monitoring

- **National Nutrition Survey (SMART):** The training of enumerators for the 2021 SMART survey started in September, with significant participation of WFP. Data collection started on 22 September and will continue for over a month.
- **Markets:** In September, food prices started to decline compared to August, in line with normal seasonal trends. This was due to the arrival of the new harvest in parts of Niger and in neighboring countries which Niger imports from. However, prices in September remained above their five-year seasonal average.
- In September, WFP finalized the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) analysis in coordination with the Food Security Cluster and the Cash Working Group, based on which WFP carried out a food gap analysis to determine the appropriate food ration to provide to different beneficiary categories within its emergency response. Results are being analyzed. Preliminary findings indicate that beneficiaries enrolled in WFP's protracted assistance programmes were on average able to cover 35 percent of their food needs through their own means, indicating that WFP’s ration should cover the remaining 65 percent of the food basket for this specific caseload. Revised rations adapted to each component will be implemented from January 2022 onwards.

### Challenges

- **Funding constraints:** WFP continues to face significant funding deficit for its operations, requiring an additional USD 61 million over October 2021 – March 2022 period. Over 75 percent of this funding is required for the emergency response, with significant shortfalls across both food and cash pipelines in place from October. In addition to ration reductions, funding constraints are resulting in reduced coverage of assistance to vulnerable populations.

### 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.**