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 10 October 2021, there have been 6,042 confirmed cases, 6,115 people cured and 204 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.

In Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food distributed</td>
<td>1,717 mt*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash-based transfers</td>
<td>USD 1.6 m*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People assisted</td>
<td>0.9 million*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Preliminary figures.

Strategic Updates

- On 22 October, WFP Country Director Mr. Jean-Noel Gentile was officially accredited by the Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation as the new WFP Representative in the Republic of Niger.

- **Looming food crisis**: 2022 food and nutrition needs are expected to be higher compared to 2021, as preliminary findings show that the agro-pastoral campaign resulted in significant production deficits mainly due drought and insecurity. WFP is following up closely with the Government and partners to finalize the Cadre Harmonisé and the final crop evaluation in November and coordinate the planning of the response and fund mobilization.

- As per the government’s pledge during the September Food Systems Summit, WFP is following up with the Government to assist with the operationalization of the plan to build sustainable and nutrition-sensitive food systems.

- **Returnee situation in Diffa**: 239 villages were identified for the second phase. WFP and partners are collaborating to clarify the unified approach and advocating to ensure that protection, security, and essential services are in place to ensure a return process in full respect of humanitarian principles.

- Under the coordination of the UN Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) in Niger, WFP is supporting the elaboration of the Social and Economic Development Plan (PDES 2022-2026) by the Ministry of Planning through the finalization of the new United Nations Common Country Assessment (CCA) and Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) process.

Operational Updates

- **Flooding**: Latest figures from 4 October show that more than 250,000 people were affected, 77 people lost their lives, and 7,326 hectares of cropland were devastated. The Government has a 50 percent gap in their assistance capacity. WFP developed a 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.

- WFP school feeding activities resumed following the reopening of schools on 4 October, with assistance being given to 1,581 schools across the country (250,000 students), plus 27,000 girls benefitting from cash school grants.

- WFP pursues its collaboration with the Government, UNICEF, and the World Bank to support the development of the national Social Protection system, to make it more shock-responsive, and nutrition/child-sensitive. A joint WFP/UNICEF Regional Bureau mission took place from 4 to 8 October to help define the strategic positioning and engagement of both agencies in Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) interventions, support...
WFP Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Result</th>
<th>Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **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 Result 2:** No one suffers from malnutrition | **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 girls, boys and adolescents during the school year in a way that relies on and stimulates local production (home-grown school feeding) |
| **Strategic Result 3:** Food systems are sustainable | **Strategic Outcome 3:** 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:**  
- 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:** Countries strengthened capacities | **Strategic Outcome 4:** 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 5:** Global partnership | **Strategic Outcome 5:** 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  
**Activities:**  
- 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. |

### Six-month net funding requirements as of 20 August 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2021 Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300.5 m</td>
<td>236 m</td>
<td>70 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Based Agencies Programme
- November 2021

**Assessment and Monitoring**

- Bushfires destroyed 360,000 hectares of pastureland around the country since September. WFP is monitoring the situation in coordination with the Government and partners and is enhancing sensitizations on measures to avoid future fires including in its resilience sites.

**Challenges**

- WFP continues to face significant funding gaps for its operations, requiring an additional USD 70 million over November 2021 – April 2022 period (of which 88 percent is required for the emergency response). In addition to ration reductions by 20 percent, funding constraints are resulting in reduced coverage of assistance to vulnerable populations.

- Access remains an issue of concern, as several areas are not accessible without armed escort. Despite efforts made by the Government to improve humanitarian access, the humanitarian country team urges continued advocacy on the importance of unhindered access.

**Donors:** Donors to WFP Niger in 2021 include Canada, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, the Government of Niger, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, and USA. Additional support has been provided by UNICEF, UNAIDS and private donors.