



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Niger

Country Brief

November 2021



Operational Context

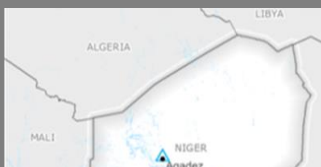
Niger is a land-locked and food-deficit Sahelian country with a population of over 24.2 million (UNFPA, 2020) and an annual demographic growth of 3.9 percent, the highest in Africa. The results of the November 2021 *Cadre Harmonisé* estimated that 2.5 million people currently food insecure (November-December 2021) and 3.6 million will be food insecure over the next agricultural lean season (June-August 2021). – kindly include here sex-disaggregated data if available, i.e. percentage of men and women among food insecure people

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 30 November 2021, there have been 6,115 confirmed cases, 5,779 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.



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/ Drone Africa

Caption: MUAC measure by a mother to her child /site of *Kouyewa / Zinder*

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

In Numbers

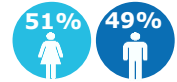
6,577 mt* of food distributed

USD 0.8 m * of cash-based transfers made

USD 73.7 m six months (December 2021 to May 2022) net funding requirements.

0.9 million* people assisted

In November 2021



* These are preliminary figures.

Strategic Updates

- **Looming food crisis:** Following the results of the November Cadre Harmonisé and of the joint crop assessment mission conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, WFP, FAO and CILSS (inter-state committee for drought control in the Sahel), the **Government elaborated an emergency response plan of over USD 280 million**, which will be implemented between November 2021 and March 2022 with the assistance of WFP and partners. The emergency response plan will be followed by another plan to cover the needs until October 2022. WFP is coordinating with the Dispositif National de Prévention et de Gestion des catastrophes et Crises Alimentaires (DNP-GCA) a fast and effective response to reach the most vulnerable people. **Early confirmation of funds will be critical to ensure an effective and coordinated response** to these unprecedented needs. If no action is taken immediately, the situation will deteriorate further and become more complex with difficult access to food, massive displacement of affected populations and high food prices.
- Due to **insufficient funding**, WFP Niger was only able to assist 632,000 people (317,833 females and 314,167 males) out of the 1.2 million planned during the lean season. Furthermore, WFP had to **reduce the ration size** for all the components of its crisis response: food rations were reduced by 20 percent from May and 30 percent from October onwards.
- **As part of the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)'s support to anticipatory-action (AA)** interventions in Niger, WFP, OCHA and FAO conducted a joint mission in Niger from 17 to 23 November to support the review and finalize the three UN organizations' joint proposal on drought impact mitigation for the upcoming 2022 rainy season.
- **WFP and the World Bank are currently renewing their memorandum of understanding (MOU) for 2022-2024.** In addition to continuing collaboration on the adaptive social protection (ASP) system, this MOU will be multi-sectorial, with collaboration in the areas of resilience, nutrition, education and the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus.
- **Due to insecurity, over 493 schools in Tillabery region remained closed in 2021**, representing more than 23 percent of total schools in the region and disrupting the studies of more than 53,500 students. Only 9,800 IDPs students have restarted their studies as of November. The Ministries of Education and Security are planning to urgently address this situation. Two schools under WFP's school feeding programme, where 140 students were enrolled (53 girls and 87 boys) in the commune of Tondikwindi (Tillabery region), did not reopen at the start of the school year in October 2021.

Operational Updates

- **Food assistance-for-assets (FFA) activities resumed in November in targeted sites** in Tillabery and Diffa, assisting 48,342 beneficiaries (24,311 females and 24,031 males) while capacity strengthening activities are being implemented in the other sites. All other FFA activities will resume in January 2022, with a planned scale-up to target 105,000 additional beneficiaries for a total of 513,055 beneficiaries.
- In November, **UNHAS** performed five medical evacuations (MEDEVAC)

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)			
2021 Requirement (in USD)	Total Available Contributions (in USD)	2021 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
300.5 m	246 m		73.7 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, (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 in absence of alternative to ensure humanitarian assistance as well as other supply chain services and expertise on demand.

and transported 1,733 passengers and 2 mt of cargo. This is the highest number of passengers ever transported in Niger in one month by UNHAS.

Assessment and Monitoring

- November Cadre Harmonisé:** The preliminary results show 2.5 million people classified as IPC phase 3 (in crisis) or above during the current November – December 2021 period (**a 107 percent increase** compared to the same period last year) and 3.6 million people expected to be classified as IPC phase 3 or above during next year’s agricultural lean season (June-August 2022), **a 57 percent increase** compared to the same period this year.
- The results of a **joint crop assessment mission** conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, WFP, FAO and CILSS (inter-state committee for drought control in the Sahel) indicate **49 percent of the agricultural villages monitored had a low agricultural production (a cereal deficit of 867,000 tons), representing a 63 percent increase compared with 2020.** The main cause is drought, however other factors such as insecurity, community conflicts, crop pests and flooding also had a negative impact.
- Niger continues to face very high rates of malnutrition. The preliminary results of the November 2021 SMART survey** (awaiting the validation of the Ministry of Health) indicated that the prevalence of global acute malnutrition at national level remained high (12.5 percent) and still well above WHO’s high threshold of 10 percent, and the chronic malnutrition rate at national level remained very high (43.5 percent).
- Results from the **Sites Sentinelles survey by the security cluster (SECAL) in November** shows that returnees in Diffa have worse security, food security and nutrition status than other communities (non-returnees) in the same areas.
- Government counterparts, the food security and agriculture cluster (FSAC) and cash working group partners validated the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) analysis in November for the food basket component in Niger, which will help WFP review the food basket and the cash transfer value distributed to the beneficiaries.
- The looming food crisis in 2022 is expected to be at least of the same magnitude - and potentially much higher if early action is not taken - than the 2005 and 2012 crises,** based on numbers of food insecure people (as per the November 2021 CH analysis), cereal production deficit figures and food price trends. Although it is difficult to compare the severity of the projected crisis with those observed in 2005 and 2012 due to a lack of comparable datasets, the current food prices and the cereal deficit are unquestionably at record high levels.

Challenges

- Funding constraints:** The current approved budget for WFP Niger’s activities over the next 12 months (December 2021 to November 2022), stands at USD 266 million. WFP currently faces a 77 percent shortfall amounting to USD 205 million (of which USD 134 million for emergency operations, and USD 60 million for resilience building activities). At current resourcing levels, UNHAS operations are secured only until mid-January 2022. Funding will be crucial for emergency operations, while resilience activities will need to be funded to address both short-term hunger and longer-term objectives. Moreover, WFP is undergoing a budget revision which is expected to further increase financial requirements to save lives and protect livelihoods.
- Access remains an issue of concern,** as armed escorts remain imposed in several areas. Despite efforts made by the Government of Niger 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, Luxembourg, Monaco, Government of Niger, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, and USA. Additional support has been provided by UNICEF and UNAIDS.