



World Food Programme

WFP Niger Country Brief

April 2022

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



Operational Context

Niger is a land-locked country in the Sahel region with the lowest **human development index (HDI) in the world**. Its population of 24.9 million people is growing at 4 percent a year – one of the highest rates in the world. On average, a woman in Niger has **6.2 children** during her lifetime.

According to the final results of the March 2022 Cadre Harmonize (CH), More than **4.4 million people** in Niger will be **acutely food insecure** during the 2022 lean season (June-August) – representing over **17 percent of the population**. **6.8 million people are also chronically food insecure** and do not have enough to eat all year round, every year.

In addition, **43.5 percent of children** under 5 years of age in Niger are **chronically malnourished (which places the country in an emergency according to the WHO classification)** and **over 12 percent are acutely malnourished** (above the 10 percent of the alert threshold set by the World Health Organization (WHO)), placing the country in a situation of alert).

WFP has been present in Niger since 1968 and is currently implementing its activities under the 2020-2024 Country Strategic Plan (CSP). WFP continues to provide support to refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities through its crisis response activities. Furthermore, WFP is reinforcing the resilience of people in areas of chronic food insecurity with an integrated package of assistance, in cooperation with the Government.

WFP has adjusted its activities to comply with 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.



Income level: **Low**

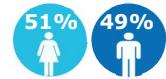
2021 Human Development Index ranking: **189 out of 189**

Global Acute Malnutrition: **12.5% of children between 6-59 months**

Chronic malnutrition: **43.5% of children aged 6-59 months**

In Numbers

1,793,913 people assisted
in April 2022



- 803,966 through crisis response
- 993,947 through resilience building

USD 95 million six-month (May - October 2022) net funding requirements.

7,205 metric tons of food assistance distributed
USD 4 million cash-based transfers made

** Preliminary figures.*

Strategic Updates

- **On 13 April, WFP Niger held a meeting** in Niamey to brief donors on the current and upcoming food security situation in Niger, WFP's funding requirements and the plan to scale up activities to reach 3.8 million people with life-saving and resilience assistance in 2022. WFP finalized a budget revision of its Country Strategic Plan to reflect these changes.
- Evidence shows that the severity of the food crisis has increased **negative coping strategies among vulnerable households**, such as the consumption of less expensive but less preferred food, reduction in the number of meals per day, selling of houses and last female animals.
- Violent clashes between non-state armed groups (NSAGs) near the Mali-Niger border has been **causing significant population displacement of Malian civilians into the regions of Tahoua and Tillabéri in Niger**. WFP is closely monitoring the situation with UNHCR and Rapid Response Mechanism partners as further refugee movements are observed. As of end of April, Niger hosts 280,000 registered refugees of whom WFP is assisting over 144,000.
- **WFP signed a new memorandum of understanding (MOU)** with the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Livestock, and Hydraulics, in order to continue supporting the Government through the implementation of livelihood activities as part of its integrated resilience package.
- **Insecurity:** Due to insecurity in Burkina Faso and near its border with Niger, WFP was forced to reroute cargo from the Lomé port through Benin instead of Burkina Faso, further increasing already high transportation costs.

Operational Updates

- WFP pursued its **lean season emergency response**, targeting 1.5 million people including refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities, with emergency assistance. This assistance is coupled **with activities to prevent and treat malnutrition**.
- WFP and UNICEF, in collaboration with the Government and the nutrition cluster, developed a **lean season communication plan** to inform beneficiaries on the food rations or cash entitlements that they will receive, and strengthen partners' capacity in implementation and monitoring.
- **Réponse à la crise alimentaire au centre Sahel (CRIALCES):** WFP assisted over 16,500 beneficiaries through value vouchers distributed in the regions of Tahoua and Tillabéri between 23 March and 6 April as part of its nutrition activities.
- WFP continued providing **hot meals to 279,000 children in 1,586 schools and 30,700 adolescent girls with scholarships** as part of its school feeding activities.
- WFP continued to support **708,000 beneficiaries across the country through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities**.
- In April 2022, **UNHAS** transported 1,039 passengers and 2.1 metric tons of cargo. Current funding levels allow UNHAS to operate until 06 July 2022. **Urgent funding is required to maintain UNHAS in Niger.**

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Photo credit: WFP

Caption: school garden, Rafa, Niger

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

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)		
2022 Total Requirement (in USD)	2022 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
332 m	141 m	95 m

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

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.

Assessment and Markets

- **Markets:** Prices for locally produced grains continued to increase in April due to the approaching agricultural lean season, Ramadan, and the regional price crisis. Furthermore, despite the Government cutting taxes on imported goods, prices continued to be higher than average, in large part due to the Ukraine crisis.
- WFP updated its **evidence note showcasing the positive results of eight years of integrated resilience activities** in Niger. Data demonstrates that WFP's resilience approach in Niger is providing communities with durable solutions, such as improved access to natural resources, improved agro-pastoral production and more diversified livelihoods, allowing them to increase their incomes.
- Published by NASA/USAID, a technical report titled "*Assessing the Impact of Agroecological Interventions in Niger through Remotely Sensed Changes in Vegetation*" **confirms the positive results of WFP's resilience interventions as a strategy for increasing agricultural productivity.**

Challenges

- **WFP urgently requires USD 114.8 million between May and December 2022** of which USD 66 million for emergency response, USD 43 million for resilience building, and USD 5.7 million for UNHAS operations. **Urgent confirmation of resources is required to ensure a timely response and to avert further deteriorations.**
- **Due to insufficient funding, WFP is forced to continue applying ration cuts**, which is affecting more than 586,100 people benefitting from both food and cash assistance under its crisis response activities.
- Around **800 schools remain closed in Niger, disrupting the education of around 69,000 children**. Most of the schools and children affected are located in the region of Tillabéri (720 schools and about 62,000 children). As the Ministry of Education **operationalizes the 'grouping centres'** to provide a safe place for schoolchildren affected by conflicts in Tillabéri to continue their education, WFP assisted nearly 56,099 of these schoolchildren under its emergency school feeding component.
- **Prevailing insecurity and limited access** are hindering WFP's operations. In April, several incidents involving NSAGs attacks occurred including on WFP's cooperating partners or transporter. These incidents pose a serious risk to WFP operations, particularly cash assistance, and reflect the difficult security environment.

Voices from the field



Mahamadou Laouali, Nigerian refugee in Bangui Peulh site

I came here to Bangui, in the region of Maradi, empty-handed and without shelter or food. Since my arrival, I've been working for others to have something to eat. For several months now, I've been receiving assistance from WFP, and have saved enough to start a small business from home. This is to say that I am very happy and I thank all those who have contributed to this happiness. In particular, I would like to thank WFP which never ceases to make effort to support.

Donors to WFP Niger in 2022 include Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Niger, Norway, Private Donors, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, and USA. Additional support has been provided by UNICERF and UNICEF.