



# WFP Niger Country Brief May 2022

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## Operational Context

Niger is a landlocked 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 are **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 World Health Organization classification)** and **over 12 percent are acutely malnourished** (above the 10 percent of the alert threshold set by the 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, 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.



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**

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**Photo credit:** WFP

**Caption:** WFP beneficiaries in the village of Teitiss, Niger

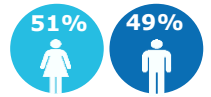
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/niger](http://www.wfp.org/countries/niger)

## In Numbers

**1,908,899\*** people assisted in May 2022

803,966 through crisis response

1,104,933 through resilience building



**USD 82.5 m** six-month (June - November 2022) net funding requirement.

**5,611 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 4.5 million** cash-based transfers made

\* Preliminary figures.

## Strategic Updates

- On 17 May, the Government, Humanitarian Country Team, and donors held a **joint meeting to discuss the food security situation and lean season response**. WFP provided an update on its emergency operations, which have been scaled-up in 2022 to reach 2 million people. However, due to resourcing constraints, 1.5 million people were prioritized for emergency assistance in 2022 with reduced rations. Without confirmation of additional resources, there is a risk that 700,000 out of the 4.4 million acutely food insecure people in Niger will not receive any form of assistance during the lean season.
- In response to the food insecurity crisis, the Government has elaborated a National Support Plan** (with an estimated budget of USD 481 million), aiming to reach the most vulnerable households in 2022. The Government estimates that as of the end of May, the lean season component of this plan is only funded at 50% inclusive of contributions to the Support Plan from partners like WFP.
- WFP and UNICEF held a joint workshop on 31 May to discuss the strengthening of the partnership between the two agencies**, particularly in the pillars of malnutrition, social protection, school health and nutrition, and resilience. A report is being prepared on the technical way forward.

## Operational Updates

- WFP reached over 800,000 beneficiaries in May with emergency assistance**. Rations were reduced to 65% of the planned full ration for most categories of beneficiaries due to resource constraints, late confirmation of funding and supply chain challenges. Thanks to the recent confirmation of additional funding, WFP is planning to scale up its emergency assistance to reach 1.3 million people in June 2022.
- As part of the **scale-up of nutrition activities**, WFP has identified 66 additional villages in Diffa region where the Global Acute Malnutrition rate is beyond the WHO emergency threshold of 15 percent to set up learning and nutrition rehabilitation centers (FARNs). Through FARNs, WFP will facilitate the screening of children to detect malnutrition, hold cooking demonstrations and awareness-raising sessions to improve child and maternal feeding practices, hygiene and nutrition.
- Réponse à la crise alimentaire au centre Sahel (CRIALCES):** between 9 - 20 May, as part of the 5<sup>th</sup> CRIALCES distribution, WFP assisted over 17,063 beneficiaries through value vouchers in the regions of Tahoua and Tillabéri.
- WFP continued providing **hot meals to 279,000 children in 1,586 schools** (including 58,711 students in 276 schools as part of emergency school feeding) **and cash assistance to 30,700 adolescent girls to incentive school attendance**.
- Between January and May, WFP reached over 951,800 people through **Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)** activities and rehabilitated over 44,000 hectares of land, almost 20% more hectares than in whole of 2021.

## Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2022 Total Requirement (in USD)	2022 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
332 m	142 m	82.5 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.

- **The Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union in Niger** visited Zinder region in May, including the processing unit of oil fortified with vitamin A, supported through WFP's Fortification of Processed Food Products (FOPAT) project.
- In May, **UNHAS** transported 1,588 passengers and 3mt of cargo. UNHAS is currently financed through to the end of August and requires **urgent confirmation of additional funding**.

## Assessment and Markets

- **Markets:** Cereal prices, although generally more stable in May compared to April, continued to increase and remained above the seasonal average due in part to the Ukraine crisis and border closures with neighboring Mali. The national average price of several commodities remained higher than the 5-year seasonal average: maize was 27% higher, cooking oil was 45% higher, livestock feed was 30% higher, and fertilizer prices increased by more than 100%. The war in Ukraine has **increased WFP's costs of purchasing and transporting both staple foods used in household rations (millet, pulses, oil, and salt) and specialized nutritious products used for the treatment and prevention of malnutrition**.

## Challenges

- **WFP urgently requires USD 82.5 million between June and November 2022**, of which USD 46.6 million for emergency response, USD 32.4 million for resilience, and USD 3.5 million for UNHAS operations. **Urgent confirmation of resources is required to ensure a timely response and prevent further deterioration.**
- Insecurity continues to impact children's education in Niger, where **over 790 schools have remained closed, disrupting the education of around 68,000 children**. 720 of these schools (62,000 children) are in conflict-affected Tillabéri region. As the Ministry of Education **continues to operationalize 'grouping centres'** to provide a safe place for children affected by conflict to continue their education. WFP assisted 1,426 of these children in 3 of these centers in May.
- **Furthermore, insecurity also affects WFP's procurement of commodities and ability to use cash transfers.** A concerning pattern has emerged of Non-State Armed Groups intercepting and robbing humanitarian workers. Cash distributions in certain communes in Tillabéri region were put on hold after two security incidents affecting WFP cooperating partners in May.
- **The war in Ukraine is affecting the logistics of WFP's food procurement in West Africa (with cancellations or delays of WFP shipments from the port of Odessa).** WFP could be forced to diversify its sourcing away from the Black Sea, resulting in higher costs and longer lead times. **For UNHAS, the global increase in fuel prices** and supply chain constraints is impacting the maintenance costs of UNHAS operations.

### Voices from the field



My name is **Mariama Jatao**, and I come from Kenkerawa in the Bangui municipality of the Tahoua region. I am a 55-year-old mother of 9 children, and a farmer by trade. I used to work my own field and could grow enough food to support my family. However, after my animals were stolen by bandits, I lost the means to make a living. We fell into very hard times, but since I started receiving assistance from WFP, I have found peace and security, and the food that is now available allows me to do other activities to help support my family. I thank all those who have contributed to the happiness that we are now experiencing.

**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.