



World Food Programme

WFP Niger Country Brief

July 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: CBT beneficiaries in Dagouji, Niger / ©WFP

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

In Numbers

Over **1,9 million*** people assisted in July 2022

1,389,505 through crisis response

547,948 through resilience building



USD 63.5 m six-month (July - December 2022) net funding requirement.

14,201 mt of food in-kind assistance distributed
USD 14.1 million cash-based transfers made

* Preliminary figures.

Strategic Updates

- On 15 July, both **French Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of the Armies** visited a joint WFP/UNICEF/FAO resilience site in Simiri (Tillabéry), including a visit to the health center and a market garden. During this year of unprecedented food crisis, this site assisted through an integrated resilience package and multiyear/multipartner/multisectoral approach, is better able to cope with shocks and not requiring emergency assistance.
- On 27 July, WFP, EU and the Government, with local authorities and partners, kicked off the **EU Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI)** - funded project "Strengthening social cohesion between displaced population and host communities through multi-dimensional assistance in Tillabery". WFP reemphasized its commitment to contribute to enhance social cohesion and operationalize the nexus to support communities in conflict-prone areas, with communities, Government and partners.
- While **July** registered the highest **rainfall deficit** in the last 20 years, by the end of July, approx. 57,000 people were affected by **floods** caused by heavy rains across the country with the Zinder region hit most severely. Following Government request WFP will leverage its support to the national adaptive social protection system to assist 54,000 flood-affected individuals.

Operational Updates

- Emergency response Operational Planning Update** – Despite operational challenges linked to the volatility of the security situation, WFP already reached 1.4 million people with emergency cash and in-kind assistance and was able to reinstate full rations. **WFP is undertaking an unprecedented scale-up of its lean season response, aiming to reach 2.2 million severely food insecure people by August 2022 in support of the national response plan** (this represents half of the 4.4 million people currently facing crisis conditions according to Cadre Harmonisé and national response plan).
- Nutrition** – WFP assisted 30,369 moderately malnourished children (6-23 months) and 9,569 pregnant women in nutrition centers during this month of July. Between January and July, WFP has reached a total of 287 391 children (6-23 months), 1 378 children (24-59 months) and 76 371 pregnant women, in 1,379 health centers.
- As part of the **CRIALCES project**, WFP organized the 6th distribution round. A total of 20,040 beneficiaries were reached with nutritional vouchers, including 14,230 pregnant and lactating women and 6,154 children aged between 6 and 23 months. Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) activities continue intensively in these communities and are coupled with the screening of children, Infant and Young Child Feeding practices, and culinary demonstrations
- UNHAS** transported 1,400 passengers and 2.15 MT of light cargo in July 2022.

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)		
2022 Total Requirement (in USD)	2022 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
332 m	86 m	63.5m

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.

- **Markets:** Food prices have remained significantly higher than average compared to July 2021. This is due to reduced local food availability, lower trade flows with bordering countries as well as the security crises in the sub-region that continue to affect household livelihoods. The government's ongoing sale at subsidized price led to overall stability in cereal prices compared to June but increases continue to be registered above the seasonal average, i.e., higher by 22% for millet (more than 50%) in Tchadoua (Maradi) and Abala (Tillabéri). The national average maize price was 29% higher than the seasonal average, the sorghum price was 25% higher and fertilizers (NPK, more used by producers) were more than 100% higher. Food prices are expected to continue to rise until the start of harvest in September/October 2022.

Challenges

- The market situation was exacerbated by the disruption of the supply chain of manufactured and imported goods linked to the situation in Ukraine, fuel shortages and high transport costs, increasing pressure on prices and thus limiting food access for poor households.
- The security situation remains volatile throughout the country, accentuated by violence in border regions with Mali and Burkina Faso. These were marked by violent Non-State Armed Group activity, accused of continuously targeting both military positions and civilian populations. Increased security incidents in Tillabéry and Dosso rendered access difficult, affecting process monitoring activities for the integrated resilience activities.
- Delays in distributions are caused by difficulties in obtaining military escorts for financial service providers and delayed confirmations of funding.
- Diesel fuel shortages also affected the availability of escorts and thereby delaying distributions, like in Tahoua region. In Dosso region, the average duration of distributions increased from 4 to 12 days.
- Given current funding level as of July, UNHAS operations are only sustained until the first week of October 2022, internal advanced financing has been requested to extend the operations until December. If no additional resources are mobilized soon, UNHAS will be forced to suspend services or increase ticket prices for all users.

Voices from the field



Nayoussa is a 50 year-old widow who heads a family of eight in the village of Allala (Tahoua). "The 2021 agricultural season was catastrophic, and we hardly produced anything. In a normal year, I harvest on average 90 bundles of millet and sorghum, but this year the harvest was 15 bundles. To meet the food needs of my family, I collected gravel which I sold to contractors and my children worked in the fields. The assistance from WFP came at the right time because it will allow me to buy food and focus on my land activities, hoping for a good harvest at the end of this season."

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