



#### Operational Context

Niger is a landlocked country in the Sahel region ranked **189 out of 191 countries in the human development index (HDI)**. 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 March 2023 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) results, 2.5 million people are currently acutely food insecure, of which 2.41 million are in phase 3 and 88,000 in phase 4. The projections show that 3.3 million people (13 percent of the population) will be acutely food insecure, of which 3.15 million people in Phase 3 and 150,000 in Phase 4 during the June-August lean season.

In addition, **47 percent of children** under 5 years of age in Niger are **chronically malnourished (which is very high and represents an increase of 3.5 percent compared to 2021)** and **over 12.2 percent are acutely malnourished** (above the 10 percent alert threshold set by WHO).

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 191**

Global Acute Malnutrition: **12.2 percent of children between 6-59 months**

Chronic malnutrition: **47 percent of children aged 6-59 months**

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**Photo:** Monaco's Minister of External relations and Cooperation and the EU Ambassador visiting the FOPAT project in Loga (©WFP)

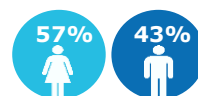
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/niger](http://www.wfp.org/countries/niger)

## In Numbers

**1.9 million people\*** assisted in March 2023

618,000 through crisis response

1.3 million through resilience building



**USD 89.1 million** six-month (April - September 2023) net funding requirement.

**5,237 mt** of food assistance distributed\*

**USD 7.5 million** cash-based transfers made\*

*\*Preliminary figures*

## Strategic Updates

- **March 2023 Cadre Harmonisé (CH):** The March 2023 CH results were validated and published on 26 March. With projections showing that 3.3 million people will be acutely food insecure (Phases 3 and 4) during the June-August lean season, this remains the highest number of severely food insecure people since the beginning of the CH in 2012, apart from 2022, which was a year of unprecedented food crisis. Key drivers are civil insecurity and forced displacements, high food and fuel prices and the currency crisis in Nigeria.
- **Launch of the 2023 National Response Plan (NRP) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP):** The Government's 2023 National Response Plan for Food and Nutrition Insecurity targets a total of 2.9 million people from June to August 2023. The 2023 HRP was launched at the same time and is aligned to the NRP.
- **Resilience Bootcamp:** WFP organized a regional training of trainers from 6 to 17 March in Dosso region to showcase how community-based planning tools are used and implemented in defining a livelihood and asset creation programme. The training gathered 110 WFP, Government, NGO and university representatives from Chad, Mali, Niger, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Zimbabwe and Kenya.
- **The media tour of the US mission to the UN agencies in Rome (USUN)** took place in Niger from 6 to 11 March, visiting resilience project sites of the Rome-based agencies (RBA) in Tillabéri, Dosso and Zinder regions. The tour highlighted the positive impact of resilience programming in Niger and strengthened relationships with the USUN Mission in Rome, the US delegation in Niger and with the RBAs.
- **Joint Monaco - EU Delegation visit:** Monaco's Minister of External Relations and Cooperation and the EU's Ambassador visited WFP's fortified cowpea flour processing unit in Loga on 21 March, to show the impact of the Fortification of Processed Food Products for Consumption (FOPAT) project on local communities.
- **WFP Niger Donor meeting:** On 22 March, WFP Niger held its first 2023 donor meeting, providing a briefing on the results of the March 2023 CH, WFP's overall achievements in 2022, Niger's 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Country Strategic Plan (2024-2027), WFP's 2023 response and the funding situation.

## Operational Updates

- **WFP's 2023 Response:** WFP is planning to assist **1.5 million people** with emergency food and nutrition assistance during the June-August lean season (including 700,000 with lean season assistance, 275,000 with rapid response, 450,000 with protracted assistance and 261,000 with emergency nutrition). A prioritization plan based on different potential funding scenarios is being finalized and will be available by the beginning of May. An additional **2.1 million** people will be assisted through the integrated resilience programme in 2023. The latter approach has proven to directly reduce vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs in times of shock.

# WFP Country Strategy

## Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2023 Total Requirement (in USD)	2023 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
302 m	31 m	89 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.

- Crisis response:** 618,037 people were assisted through the emergency protracted and rapid response mechanism components including 44,304 children aged 6-59 months with supplementary feeding.
- Nutrition:** WFP assisted 96,253 children aged 6-59 months and 25,037 pregnant and breastfeeding women with malnutrition prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition activities. 788 caretakers of children hospitalized with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) were also assisted in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.
- School feeding:** 299,381 children were provided with school meals in 1,589 schools (including 56,099 children in 257 emergency schools, 1,426 children in 3 grouping centers and 579 children in 2 boarding schools).
- Support to livelihoods:** WFP assisted 934,054 people with food assistance for assets activities, including 118,979 people with shock-responsive social safety nets.
- Nexus:** WFP continues to strengthen partnerships with a coalition of social cohesion actors that have conflict-sensitivity expertise to better mainstream and operationalize nexus programming. In addition, support is being provided to the Government in the organization of a series of consultations in May with stakeholders in Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéri, towards the development of the national durable solutions strategy.
- UNHAS** transported 1,874 passengers and 1.9 mt of light cargo in March and conducted three medical evacuations (MEDEVAC). UNHAS operations are sustained until the beginning of June 2023.

## Assessment and Markets

- Markets:** Prices remained above the five-year seasonal average for cereals (+9 percent for millet) and slightly below average for pulses (-3 percent for cowpea). Insecurity with the resulting disruptions in the supply chain, and the currency crisis and inflation in Nigeria continue to drive up the prices of cereal and imported commodities. In Tillabéri and Tahoua regions, the average cereals prices were 20 to 40 percent higher than the five-year average. In the coming months, prices are expected to continue to rise with the start of the lean season in June.

## Challenges

- WFP's net funding requirement for the period April to September amounts to **USD 89.1 million** (51 percent funding gap), with a critical USD 62.1 million funding gap for emergency response activities.
- Access and security:** The number of forced relocations is steadily rising because of insecurity and instability in Niger and in surrounding countries. The security situation in the Tillabéri region has worsened over the last months as non-state armed groups have intensified targeting of civilians, traditional leaders and state institutions in some areas (Tillabéri, Tahoua, and Maradi). The evolving security dynamics might have an impact on the shrinking humanitarian space, impacting the delivery of much-needed assistance.

## Voices from the field



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With the road network deteriorating and the prevailing insecurity situation in some areas of the country, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) managed by WFP proved to be the safest and fastest way to reach remote areas of the country. UNHAS also plays a key life-saving role by carrying out medical evacuations for refugees, migrants, and humanitarian actors and transporting light cargo such as medicines.