



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Niger

Country Brief

February 2023



Operational Context

Niger is a landlocked country in the Sahel Region ranked 189 out of 191 countries on the human development index (HDI). Its population of 24.9 million people is growing at four 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 November 2022 Cadre Harmonisé results, 2 million people in Niger were facing acute levels of food insecurity (phases 3 and 4) in November- December 2022, and 2.9 million people are projected to face such levels of food insecurity during the 2023 lean season (June-August) - representing a decrease compared to 2022, which was a year of unprecedented food crisis.

In addition, 47 percent of children under five 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 threshold alert set by the World Health Organization).

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: UK visit to WFP resilience site in Kouroungoussaou, Maradi (©WFP)

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

In Numbers

1.8 million people* assisted in February 2023

536,000 million through crisis response

1.3 million through resilience building

57%

43%

USD 84.5 million six-month (March - August 2023) net funding requirement

9,263 mt of food assistance distributed*

USD 5.6 million cash-based transfers made*

*Preliminary figures

Strategic Updates

- The United Kingdom **Minister of State for Development and Africa** visited WFP's integrated resilience site of Kouroungoussaou and the Garin Kaka joint UN/NGO village of opportunity (resettlements) in the Maradi Region. The mission assessed the impact of WFP's integrated resilience package on local communities.
- A **US Agency for International Development/Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)** mission from Washington and Dakar conducted an **assessment** of WFP's integrated resilience program in Niger. The monitoring visit focused on assessing the program's results and complementarity with partner interventions. The final report is expected in March 2023.
- Niger 2nd generation country strategic plan 2024-2028:** WFP Niger facilitated a scoping and formulation mission in February to launch the development of its 2nd Generation (2G) 2024-2027 country strategic plan (CSP). WFP Niger's 2G CSP will be aligned with the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027 and Niger's Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES) 2022-2026. The mission provided the initial strategic scoping of the new CSP and helped define the work plan to achieve its timely submission to the Executive Board in February 2024.
- WFP Niger attended the high-level **Conference on Financing for Education in Emergencies** held in Geneva co-organized with Education Cannot Wait (ECW). Niger's Minister of Education stressed the importance of school feeding and the priority given to this social safety net in Niger, as well as the country's commitments to furthering the subject.
- WFP participated in a series of workshops hosted by the Government of Niger in Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder to support the **articulation of a national durable solutions strategy**. The objective of the workshops was to inform stakeholders about the concept of sustainable solutions and collect inputs for this strategy.

Operational Updates

- Crisis response:** WFP assisted 536,116 people through the emergency protracted and rapid response mechanism components. This included 23,740 children aged 6-59 months assisted with supplementary feeding.
- School feeding:** WFP provided 331,168 children with school meals in 1,586 schools (including 56,000 children in 257 emergency schools and 1,426 children in 3 grouping centres).

Nutrition: WFP assisted 59,500 children (6-23 months) with moderate acute malnutrition treatment, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, and 192,600 children aged 6-59 months were screened at the community level in Diffa, Dosso, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéri and Zinder as part of the community nutrition program.

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	28.7 m	84.5 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.

- **Rural development and livelihoods:** WFP assisted 819,566 people with food assistance for assets activities. 118,979 people were assisted with shock-responsive social safety nets.

- **UNHAS** transported 1,382 passengers and 1.3 mt of light cargo. UNHAS operations will be sustained until 18 May 2023.

Assessment and Markets

- **Assessments:** The food security vulnerability survey (EVIAM) did not take place in February as the Government faced challenges in mobilizing the needed funds. The survey results will therefore not feed into the March 2023 Cadre Harmonisé analysis.

- **Markets:** Cereal prices remained above average in February, with the national price of millet being nine percent above the five-year seasonal average. This is partly related to the currency crisis and poor harvest in neighbouring Nigeria, from which Niger imports much of its cereals. The instability of the Naira is affecting the purchasing power and income generating activities of populations in regions bordering Nigeria. Prices are expected to continue increasing in the coming months with the start of Ramadan in April and of the lean season in June.

- **Monitoring:** In February, the country office started collecting post distribution data for the shock-responsive social protection response delivered in 2022.

Challenges

- WFP's net funding requirement for March - August amounts to **USD 84.5 million** (47 percent funding gap), with a critical USD 54.6 million funding gap for emergency response activities.
- **Access and Security constraints:** The number of forced relocations is steadily rising due to insecurity and instability in Niger and in surrounding countries. The security situation in the Tillabéri Region has drastically worsened over the last three months as non-state armed groups have intensified their targeting of civilians, traditional leaders, and state institutions in some areas (Tillabéri, Tahoua, and Maradi). The evolving security dynamics are likely to have an impact on the shrinking humanitarian space, impacting the delivery of the much-needed assistance.

Voices from the field



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Hadjara Mahmoudou is an internally displaced person (IDP) who fled the village of Inates (Tillabéri Region) with her two children to the Ouallam IDP site. « I had to leave my village three years ago. I have now started a small peanut oil business to generate some income so that my children can have a better future. If it wasn't for the opportunities delivered on this site by WFP, in addition to the food, we might still have been moving around. »

WFP Niger donors (as per February 2023) include Canada | France | Germany | Japan | Luxembourg | Monaco | Sweden | Switzerland | USAID.