



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Niger Country Brief May 2023



In Numbers

1.9 million people* assisted
702,400 through crisis response
1.2 million through resilience-building

6,122 mt of food assistance distributed*

US\$ 2.1 million cash-based transfers made

US\$ 76.4 million six-month (June-November 2023) net funding requirement

**Preliminary figures*

Operational Context

Niger's population of 24.9 million people is growing by 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 March 2023 Cadre Harmonisé (CH), 3.3 million people (13 percent of the population) will be acutely food insecure during the June-August lean season, of which 3.15 million people in Phase 3 and 150,000 in Phase 4. This is the second highest number since the start of the Cadre Harmonisé analysis in Niger in 2012.

In addition, **47 percent of children** under 5 years of age in Niger are **chronically malnourished (representing 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).

Main drivers of food insecurity in Niger include the combined effects of conflict in neighboring countries - leading to an increase in insecurity and forced displacement - climate shocks (such as drought and floods) and high food prices.

WFP has been present in Niger since 1968 and is currently implementing its activities under the 2020-2024 Country Strategic Plan. 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.



Population: **24.9 million**

2021 Human Development Index: **189 out of 191 countries**

Income Level: **Low income**

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

Operational Updates

- WFP participated in the government-led consultative workshop to develop the **national strategy on durable solutions**. The strategy is to be approved by the Government in July. Government entities will lead the implementation of the strategy's activities with other actors as necessary and based on their comparative advantage.
- WFP Niger participated in a **joint resilience workshop** with UNICEF, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) aimed to reinforce a **harmonised approach for multisectoral resilience building in the Sahel**.
- The European Union (EU) delegation in Niger and WFP visited an **EU's Foreign Policy Instrument-funded project in Ouallam aiming to strengthen social cohesion** between host communities, internally displaced persons and refugees. Under this project, WFP partners with the High Authority for Peace Consolidation (HACPT), UNHCR and other strategic partners to ensure that more than 86,500 communities transition from WFP's protracted humanitarian assistance to WFP's resilience assistance package.
- A joint mission was organised by the Government of Niger, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and WFP to assess the Sahel Programme in response to the challenges of COVID-19 challenges, Conflicts and Climate Change (**SD3C- Niger**) overall performance and its impact on target groups, and to guide the coordination teams in achieving their objectives.
- Crisis Response:** 702,400 beneficiaries were assisted with emergency interventions. This included 33,000 through the rapid response mechanism (RRM), 69,100 with post-RRM assistance, 437,000 with protracted assistance, and 163,300 with pastoral lean season support.
- Nutrition:** WFP assisted 85,700 children aged 6-59 months for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition activities in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.
- School feeding:** 299,444 children were provided with school meals in 1,589 schools including 257 emergency schools, 3 grouping centres and 2 boarding schools.
- Support to livelihoods:** Over 869,800 people benefited from food assistance for assets activities, including 116,000 people with shock-responsive social safety nets.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)** transported 2,172 passengers and 2.7 Mt of light cargo and facilitated 2 medical evacuations. Due to funding shortfalls, the steering group committee decided to increase by 50 percent the price of flight tickets from 1 July onwards.

Contact info: Ancel Kats (ancel.kats@wfp.org)
Country Director: Jean-Noel Gentile
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/niger

Photo Caption: Asylum seekers from Mali receiving food assistance in Tahoua.
APBF/Yacouba Assoumane

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
1.2 billion	746 million
2022 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (June – November 2023)
302.5 million	76.4 million

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 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, decentralized 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.

Assessments and Markets

- The retargeting exercise for WFP's protracted emergencies assistance was initiated and will be finalised in June. The targeting criteria and methodology were designed jointly with UNHCR and the WFP-UNHCR Joint Targeting Hub, as part of the JAM exercise carried out in 2022/23. This marks an important transition towards 100 percent vulnerability-based food assistance, including for refugees. The targeting of WFP's agricultural lean season response was also initiated.
- A study conducted by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on resilience and social cohesion programmes in Burkina Faso and Niger highlighted how resilience activities contribute to strengthening social cohesion and reduce conflict, through participatory planning exercises, development of communal assets, asset creation activities, women empowerment and livelihood support activities.

Challenges

- WFP's most critical funding gap is for **emergency response activities** (US\$ 43.6 million), followed by the **integrated resilience package** (US\$ 30.1 million).
- Funding shortfalls forced WFP to prioritise its assistance:** 1.1 million people will be receiving assistance instead of 1.5 million, assistance will be provided for two months instead of three, and rations for the protracted caseload will be maintained at 65 percent of the Kcal needs instead of 80 percent during the June - August lean season. A full interruption of assistance is likely during the second semester if no additional resources are confirmed immediately.

Voice from the field



Mama Hamza is a farmer and herder in the town of Dan Gueza, in the Zinder region. She used to walk miles to feed her livestock, exhausted and hopeless. With WFP's land restoration programme using half-moon techniques, over time Mama Hamza's life changed for the better. This technique revitalizes the environment and restores vegetation and forest covers on previously degraded land.

Donors

2023 WFP Niger donors (as per May 2023) include Australia, Canada, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Sweden, Switzerland, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA).

Photo Caption: Land restoration activities in Zinder region
WFP/Gideon Sarpong