In Numbers

1.9 million people* assisted
804,500 through crisis response
1.1 million through resilience-building

10,039 mt of food assistance distributed*

US$ 6.9 million cash-based transfers made*

US$ 68.14 million six-month (July - December 2023) net funding requirement

*Preliminary figures

Strategic Updates

- A joint BMZ/GIZ/WFP high level visit was conducted to Niger. The visit aimed to advance inter-agency strategic partnerships and dialogue for resilience building and the operationalisation of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus in fragile contexts. The mission visited WFP and GIZ’s flagship resilience and social cohesion building joint project in Zinder as well as WFP’s HDP Nexus project in the Tillabéri region.

- WFP established a regional warehouse (global commodity management facility/GCMF) in Niamey, to deliver food to hard-to-reach areas in bordering Burkina Faso and Mali, thereby bypassing the usual unsafe corridors from Bamako or Ouagadougou. The hub also allows to deliver food to Chad, in response to the Sudan crisis. The first delivery of food from Niamey to Dori in Burkina Faso took place.

Operational Updates

- Lean season assistance: WFP had planned to assist 1.5 million people with a three-month emergency food and nutrition assistance during the June-August agricultural lean season. The critical underfunding level for crisis response operations has led WFP, in consultation with the DNPGCA, to establish a prioritisation plan. WFP will only provide a two-month assistance (June/July) in July, to a reduced number of beneficiaries (1.1 instead of 1.5 million) and with reduced rations. Immediate confirmation of additional funding is critical to avoid further reductions or suspension of life-saving assistance in Niger.

- Crisis Response: Nearly 804,500 beneficiaries were assisted with emergency interventions, including assistance provided through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), for post-RRM, protracted crisis (internally displaced persons IDPs/refugees/host community) and pastoral lean season assistance.

- Nutrition: WFP assisted 84,180 children aged 6-59 months for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

- School-meal programme: With the academic year ending in June, 333,344 children were provided with school meals in 1,589 schools including 257 emergency schools, 3 grouping centres and 2 boarding schools. Among them, 33,900 adolescent girls received school grants.

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) are acutely and severely food insecure during the June-August lean season, of which 3.15 million are in Phase 3 (Crisis) and 150,000 in Phase 4 (Emergency). This is the second highest number since the start of the Cadre Harmonisé analysis in Niger in 2012.

47 percent of children under five 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 neighbouring 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
Income Level: Low income

2021 Human Development Index: 189 out of 191 countries
Chronic malnutrition: 47 percent of children between 6-59 months

Photo Caption: Lean season food distributions in the region of Diffa, WFP/MamanTahir Nouri

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1 The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)
2 the National Food Crisis Prevention and Management Cell
3 Reduction of rations provided to the protracted caseload during the lean season is maintained at 65% Minimum Expenditure Basket for food instead of 80%
Strategic Outcome 1: Everyone has access to food

**Activities:** Provide an integrated food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations (refugees, IDPs, host communities and returnees)

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

Strategic Outcome 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

**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.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

Strategic Outcome 3: Food systems are sustainable

**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.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

Strategic Outcome 4: Countries strengthened capacities

**Activities:** Provide capacity strengthening to national, decentralized institutions and partners on: (i) coherent and gender-transormative intersectoral policies; (ii) planning, (iii) ownership and programme implementation, and (iv) knowledge management.

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

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

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

### Assessments and Markets
- Following the WFP/UNHCR Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) conducted in 2022, WFP and UNHCR continue the re-targeting exercise for all of WFP’s protracted emergencies assistance (IDPs and refugees). This marks an important transition towards 100% vulnerability-based food assistance, including for refugees.

### Challenges
- WFP faces its biggest funding shortfall for its crisis response ($US 32.15 million).
- Access and security: WFP operations in Niger continue to be challenged by insecurity, in the regions bordering Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria. At the end of June, WFP witnessed a series of incursions and attacks including against WFP-supported schools in the Diffa and Tillabéri regions, destroying property and burning classrooms. An estimated 12.7 mt of food were looted from these schools, which were closed for the summer break. WFP developed a plan with local authorities to immediately distribute remaining quantities in at-risk schools as take-home dry rations, in consultation with donors.

### Voices from the field

“My name is Safia Yaro, mother of six. I used to collect water for the villagers. Today I am growing vegetables in my own garden. My income has enabled me to buy a solar panel, which makes it easier to water my garden. Our lives have really improved”. Safia is a beneficiary of the SD3C project (response to the challenges of COVID-19, Conflicts & Climate Change) implemented by WFP, FAO and IFAD with the Government.

### Donors

Donors to WFP Niger as per June 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) and the US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM).