



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Niger Country Brief July 2023

## In Numbers

57%



43%



**1.2 million people\*** assisted in July 2023  
**871,000** through crisis response  
**330,000** through resilience building

**8,442 mt** of food distributed\*

**US\$ 2.96 million** cash-based transfers made\*

**US\$ 71 million** six-month (August 23 – January 24)  
net funding requirement

*\*Preliminary figures*

## Operational Context

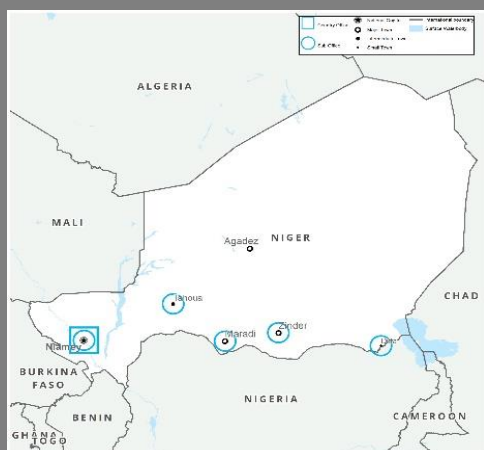
Niger's population of 25.9 million people is growing by four percent a year – one of the highest rates in the world.

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 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.

**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 armed conflicts 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 and expanding the package into fragile regions to further decrease humanitarian needs and contribute reinforce social cohesion.



Population: **24.9 million**

2021 Human Development Index  
ranking: **189 / 191 countries**

Income level: **Low income**

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

## Strategic Updates

- On 10 July, WFP country director provided a briefing to representatives of the United States Congress in Niamey. The visit provided an opportunity to discuss food security challenges and highlight how the US supports WFP emergency and resilience operations to meet the needs of vulnerable communities in Niger.
- From 17 to 21 July, WFP Niger hosted an Exchange Visit on resilience programming for university and government representatives as well as WFP staff from Malawi, Kenya, and Zimbabwe. The exchange visit was organized as part of the WFP Livelihoods Asset and Resilience Academy (LARA) initiative, bringing together a network of African universities to lead and promote the localization of expert capacity in the design and implementation of integrated resilience-building programmes.
- On 26 July, the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland (CNSP) claimed power in Niger. In reaction, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) closed borders with Niger and imposed economic sanctions with immediate effect along with the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU).
- As the crisis unfolds, WFP is committed to ensuring uninterrupted humanitarian and resilience operations. Should resources allow, WFP is positioned to scale up humanitarian assistance while ramping up investments in resilience and social cohesion.
- Ongoing political instability could exacerbate already large and complex humanitarian needs in Niger where over 4.3 million people require humanitarian assistance in 2023 alone, including 3.3 million acutely food-insecure people.

## Operational Updates

- Crisis Response:** WFP assisted 871,051 beneficiaries with emergency interventions including Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), post-RRM, protracted, pastoral and agricultural lean season response (started in July). Distributions for the pastoral lean season are not finalized. This is mainly due to delays in food delivery to certain areas due to poor road conditions during the rainy season.
- Nutrition:** WFP assisted 78,670 children aged 6-59 months for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition activities in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.
- School-meal programme:** During school vacation, WFP has continued distributions of educational grants to 9,013 adolescent girls in the regions of Tillabéri, Maradi, and Zinder. Cash transfers totalled US\$ 130,300 in July.
- Support to rural development and livelihoods:** During the reporting period, WFP assisted 253,165 smallholder farmers usually receiving support to enhance their agricultural production with unconditional assistance during the lean season.

**Photo Caption:** Food distribution for the lean season assistance, Dosso region. Photo credit: WFP's cooperating partner Karkara

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- **UNHAS:** In July, UNHAS transported a total of 1,408 passengers and 1.267 mt of cargo. On 5 and 6 July, UNHAS organized a special return flight between Niamey and Dakar to facilitate a high-level visit by the High Commissioner for Refugees. On July 28, de facto authorities announced the closure of airspace and all airports. In total, UNHAS had to cancel six flights in July.

**Activities:** Provide UNHAS flight services to partners, to access areas of humanitarian interventions. Provide logistics, ITC, and coordination services to partners in the absence of alternatives to ensure humanitarian assistance as well as other supply chain services and expertise on demand.

## Monitoring & Assessments

- **Assessment:** The report of the Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) conducted by UNHCR and WFP in 2022/23 in Niger was released. This is the most recent and comprehensive analysis of the living conditions and food security of people living in areas of displacement in Niger and will serve as a starting point for collective reflection to find sustainable solutions to better assist displaced populations and host communities. In addition, at the end of July, WFP Niger started working with partners to understand the potential impacts of the ECOWAS sanctions on food security.
- **Markets:** In the coming months, the combination of ECOWAS sanctions on Niger and existing border closures/ export bans from India and Nigeria will disrupt market functioning and increase food prices. WFP’s analysis mentioned above will provide more information on the impact and the affected population.

## Challenges

- Border closures are limiting the importation of vital commodities including WFP’s food and nutrition supplies. Operational impacts are being assessed but may also be felt in neighbouring countries as Niger serves as a supply chain route into Burkina Faso, Mali, and Chad. WFP continues to advocate with all parties for humanitarian relief to enter Niger. WFP is actively working on potential ways to mitigate the impact by increasing local purchases, however, in-country stocks are limited, and pipeline breaks for commodities are anticipated by mid-September for nutritious products.
- WFP operations continue to be challenged by insecurity in the regions bordering Mali, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria. This includes intercommunity clashes, armed hostilities by Non-State Armed Groups and the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), all underscoring the precarious security situation.
- WFP Niger urgently requires US\$ 71 million for the next six months (August 2023 – January 2024). Limited resources have already forced WFP to adopt a prioritization plan for its emergency lean season response with a reduction of planned beneficiaries (1.1 million instead of 1.5 million), rations and duration of assistance in place. WFP urgently requires additional resources particularly as the political crisis unfolds and may result in all parties needs.

## Voices from the field



“My name is Fati Moussa, 28 years old, mother of two living in the locality of Ayorou in the Tillaberi region. I used to be a farmer, but the insecurity and drought prevented us from farming to meet our food needs. I couldn’t even satisfy my baby’s milk needs from the age of six months because I couldn’t feed myself properly. Thanks to WFP’s nutrition assistance, my boy is now growing stronger than ever”.

## Donors

**Donors to WFP Niger CSP in 2023** include Australia, Canada, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), European Union, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) and the US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM).

**Photo Caption:** breast-feeding woman receiving WFP assistance, Tillaberi region. WFP/Jerry LEMOGO

## WFP Country Strategy



### Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2024)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
1.2 billion	746 million
2023 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Aug 23-January 24)
302.5 million	71 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 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, (ii) 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