

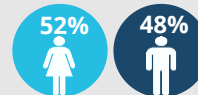


World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Niger Country Brief January 2024

In Numbers



1.2 million people* assisted in January 2024
192,000 through crisis response
1.1 million through resilience building

3,475 Mt of food assistance distributed*

US\$ 4.8 million cash-based transfers made*

US\$ 115.7 million six-month net funding requirement (February – July 2024)

*Preliminary figures



Operational Context

Niger's population of 27 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.

Early and conservative projections of the November 2023 Cadre Harmonisé already indicate that at least **3.2 million people will be acutely food insecure during the 2024 lean season**.

47 percent of children under 5 years of age in Niger are **chronically malnourished** and over 12.2 percent are acutely malnourished (above the 10 percent alert threshold set by WHO). This represents 1.5 million children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 0.4 million suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM). More than 50 percent of children under five suffer from at least one form of malnutrition.

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. These pre-existing and complex humanitarian needs have been further compounded by the socio-economic impact of the 2023 political crisis and the subsequent international sanctions and border closures.

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. To reduce humanitarian needs, WFP is reinforcing the resilience of people in areas of chronic food insecurity with an integrated package of assistance, which is also scaled up in fragile areas, as a mean to operationalize the HDP nexus and build social cohesion.



Population: **27 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

- WFP's Deputy Executive Director visited Niger on 4 – 5 January 2024, meeting with the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Humanitarian Action. The objective of the successful visit was to reaffirm the UN System's neutrality and WFP's unwavering support to the government in achieving its national priorities, notably bringing resilience efforts to scale.
- Between 22 and 25 January, WFP Niger's Country Director travelled to Madrid, Luxembourg and Brussels to discuss with key Government and EU counterparts on the context and challenges in Niger, including opportunities for reinforced partnerships in crisis response, resilience building and Nexus in Niger.
- On January 28, Niger's Government of transition announced its immediate withdrawal from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in a decision coordinated with the other Alliance of Sahel States members, Burkina Faso and Mali. All three were already suspended from ECOWAS with Niger and Mali facing heavy sanctions. Since July 2023 the political crisis has triggered widespread socio-economic impacts that compound the existing drivers of humanitarian needs: climate related shocks, conflict, and volatile markets.

Operational Updates

- WFP Niger continues to deliver a holistic package of humanitarian and resilience building assistance in Niger, reaching over 1.1 million people with crisis response and 1.9 million with resilience interventions in 2023.
- Crisis Response:** In January, 192,246 beneficiaries were assisted with emergency interventions including through the rapid response mechanism (RRM), post-RRM, and protracted response. Response was provided to IDPs, refugees and host populations in the regions of Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua and Tillabéri.
- Nutrition:** WFP assisted 56,700 children aged 6-59 months for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) activities in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. Since August 2023, a total of 240,700 children aged 6-59 months have been affected by nutrition pipeline breaks, with more than 89,000 children suffering from MAM that did not receive WFP-supported treatment in January.
- School feeding:** School meals were served to 324,719 children in 1,589 schools including 257 emergency schools, 3 grouping centres and 2 boarding schools. 35,340 adolescents' girls received school grants.
- Support to livelihoods:** Over 710,700 people benefited from food assistance for assets activities. Cash transfers were coupled with rations for malnutrition prevention for 18,217 children 6-23 months.

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Photo caption: Communities of Sokorbé are digging water catchments - Demi-lunes - in the Sokorbé watershed, Dosso region, Niger @WFP/Richard Mbouet

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2024)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
1.51 billion	846 million
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (February - July 2024)
314.7 million	115.7 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.

- **UNHAS:** In January 2024, UNHAS transported 673 passengers and 2.4 MT of light cargo.

Assessments and Markets

- **Markets:** WFP has observed low variations in national average cereal prices compared to December 2023. Millet and maize prices have increased by 3% and Sorghum by 2%, while imported rice prices decreased by 1%. The notable increase of average niébé prices (11%) is the result of poor harvests during the 2023 agricultural campaign and the border closures. Cereal prices remain much higher than the five-year average and compared to January 2023, with a 32% increase for rice, 16% increase for sorghum, 17% for maize, 10% for millet and 20% for niébé.

Challenges

- **Logistical constraints:** Border closures continue to pose significant supply chain challenges. The Togo/Burkina Faso corridor remains the only approved route to ship humanitarian supplies into Niger. As of January 2024, only 65 trucks (2,750 Mt) of food and specialized nutritional products arrived in Niger since the start of the political crisis. Approximately 4,630 Mt of stock remains outside of the country or en-route. The total additional costs incurred using the alternative corridor amount to US\$ 1.9 million. WFP is sparing no effort to accelerate the transfer of these cargos, while continuing to advocate for the reopening of the borders with Benin and Nigeria.
- WFP has only transported 600MT of specialized products for the treatment of malnutrition into Niger since August 2023, with a further 1,675MT still outside of the country. Given the lack of supplies in-country, WFP will only be able to assist 45,000 children under 2 through to the end of April. As a result, up to 240,000 children under 5 have not received sufficient assistance to treat MAM since August 2023 due to WFP-supported nutrition centers running out of supplies. Even with the reception of the stocks and drastic prioritization, all MAM assistance will be suspended by the end of July. In 2024, nearly 670,000 children, will not receive treatment if supply and financing constraints persist.
- WFP Niger **urgently requires US\$ 115.7 million** from February 2024 to July 2024 (67% percent of total needs), of which US\$ 71.1 million is required for crisis response, USD 39 million for the integrated resilience package and USD 5 million for UNHAS. Already, 470,000 IDPs, refugees and host communities are receiving reduced emergency assistance (65% rations) while 710,000 people are receiving rural development and livelihoods support for 15 days per month instead of 20 days. Rural development and livelihoods support will face drastic cuts from April onwards. UNHAS services are only sustained until 21 March 2024. If no additional funds are received, UNHAS will have to reduce the fleet from two to one aircraft to reduce operational costs. This will impact the frequency, capacity and reliability of the service.

- **Access and security:** Continued security incidents in January reflect the complex environment throughout the country, including direct clashes between national forces and non-state armed groups and increased use of IEDs, impacting humanitarian access. Efforts to dismantle criminal networks were particularly notable in Zinder and Tahoua, demonstrating the State's commitment to law enforcement and public security. Attacks on schools in the Tillabéri region signal a worrying trend of targeting institutions, requiring a strategic response to protect educational facilities. The attacks have prompted a strategic review aimed at preventing and mitigating such events.

2023 WFP Niger donors: Germany | USA | EU | ECHO | UK | Canada | Switzerland | Japan | France | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Luxembourg | Monaco | Australia | Belgium | Denmark