



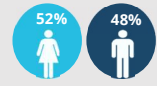
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Niger Country Brief June 2024



June in Numbers

900,000 people assisted in June*
370,000 through crisis response
530,000 through resilience building



5,422 mt of food assistance distributed*

US\$ 5.5 million cash-based transfers made*

US\$ 108 million six-month net funding requirement (July-Dec 2024)

*Preliminary figures



Operational Context

Niger's population of 27 million people is growing by 3.7 percent a year – one of the highest rates in the world.

According to the projections released by CILSS at regional level, 3.4 million people (13 percent of the total population) are projected to be acutely food insecure (phases 3 and 4) during the 2024 June-August lean season. This is the second highest level since the Cadre Harmonisé analysis commenced in 2012.

Forty-seven 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.

The main drivers of food insecurity in Niger include the combined effects of the spillover of **conflict** from 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**, the subsequent sanctions and suspension of external assistance from several financial partners.

WFP has been present in Niger since 1968 and is currently implementing its activities under the 2020-2024 Country Strategic Plan. WFP provides emergency assistance to crisis-affected communities including refugees, internally displaced persons, and host communities. Simultaneously, through an integrated package of resilience-building activities, WFP supports communities to promote healthy food systems by revitalizing their ecosystems, enhancing livelihoods opportunities, and strengthening access to basic services (education and nutrition). This approach, increasingly being rolled-out in fragile areas, reduces humanitarian needs and contributes to strengthening social cohesion.



Population: **27 million**

2023/2024 HDI Report: **Ranked 189th out of 193**

Income level: **Low income**

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

Strategic Updates

- **UN regional Directors' visit to Niger:** From 9 to 13 June, a high-level UN delegation led by the Special Under Secretary General for the Sahel, Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye and DCO Regional Director for Africa, Mr. Yacoub El Hillo visited Niamey to meet and exchange with the Government of Niger. The delegation, which also included Regional Directors from WFP, UNHCR, UNDP, OCHA, and UNDSS, met with key government ministers including the Prime Minister, international financial institutions (World Bank, IMF, IFAD), financial and technical partners, as well as civil society organizations and NGOs.
- **CCRS participation in the climate workshop organized by WFP:** The Executive Secretary of the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region (CCRS), based in Niger, participated in a climate workshop in Rome on 25-26 June. The event, hosted by WFP and the UAE Embassy, focused on strategizing policy, programmatic, and financing solutions to address climate change impacts on food security in fragile states. During the event, the CCRS underscored the urgent need for consolidated actions to enhance climate resilience in the Sahel.
- **Lean season response:** WFP is implementing drastic prioritization measures for its Crisis Response actions, including the lean season responses, due to resourcing constraints. During the pastoral lean season (April-June), assistance is being provided to only 52,000 beneficiaries instead of the planned 284,000. While WFP's agricultural lean season support will reach only 100,000 beneficiaries for a reduced period of time (2 months), compared to the planned 3 months of assistance for 574,000.
- **Access restrictions and other operational challenges:** The Government of Niger requires partners to use military escorts for the movement of all humanitarian personnel and the transportation of assistance in zones of military activity. As a result, WFP Niger is facing operational delays particularly due to the Government's limited capacity to accommodate the number of required escorts for missions and delivery of assistance.

Operational Update

- **Crisis response:** In June, a total of 370,975 beneficiaries received assistance out of 597,660 planned. WFP coupled May-June distributions to reduce the impact of movement restrictions and delays linked to military escorts. The Tillabéry and Tahoua regions are most affected by delays, including for pastoral lean season distributions.
- **Nutrition:** In June WFP reached 54,495 children affected by Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), targeting exclusively children aged 6-23 months in malnutrition hotspot areas. This compares to a monthly planned target of 98,000. Access issues also hinder

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Photo caption: Lean season assistance in Garazou, Zinder region.
[@WFP/Adamou_Sani_Dan_Salaou](https://twitter.com/WFP/Adamou_Sani_Dan_Salaou)

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2024)	
Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
1.51 billion	846 million
2024 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (July–December 2024)
314.7 million	108 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.

distribution, monitoring, and supervision of activities.

- **School Feeding:** In June, 325,337 school children in 1,666 schools received daily hot meals. Educational grants for the third trimester were distributed to approximately 36,000 adolescent girls, reinforcing access to education. Security challenges required government-escorted distributions in high-risk areas, impacting the schedule of deliveries to WFP-assisted schools.
- **Rural development and livelihood support:** In June, WFP assisted 152,988 beneficiaries through cash distributions and capacity strengthening support including support for the cultivation of sylvo-pastoral sites, and the development and monitoring of 162 vegetable gardens.
- **UNHAS:** UNHAS transported 1,013 passengers and 1.7 mt of light cargo. UNHAS also undertook one MEDEVAC during the month. UNHAS services are currently sustained until 19 October 2024.

Assessments and Market

- According to the market monitoring analysis of May 2024, the prices of staple foods remained well above the five-year seasonal average for cereals (36% for millet, 43% for sorghum, 47% for maize, 39% for imported rice) and for legumes (45% for cowpeas), affecting the purchasing power of beneficiaries.
- A remote nationwide food security monitoring survey was conducted in collaboration with SAP (Early Warning System/ Government structure) to monitor food security situation during the lean season. The results of the survey will be published in July.
- The reports of the baseline survey for the pastoral lean season response (emergency response) and Adaptive Social Protection response conducted in May via phone survey were finalized. To enable remote monitoring of activities in Diffa and Tillaberi, where military escorts are mandatory for field mission, WFP shifted to remote monitoring. Tools have been adapted consequently.

Challenges

- Due to **severe resource constraints**, WFP has adopted **drastic prioritization measures** for crisis response interventions. WFP's emergency assistance in 2024 will reach only 871,435 people during the lean season, compared to the planned 1.9 million, risking rapid deterioration of food security and nutrition, distress migration in search of a better life, heightened community tensions, and asset depletion and ecosystem damage to survive.
- **Rising Cost of UNHAS operations:** UNHAS Niger is facing additional operating costs due to new levies issued by the Government (US\$1.70 fee per passenger), an increase of approximately US\$10,000 in UNHAS's annual operating permit fee and rising fuel prices. UNHAS ticket prices have been augmented to account for price rises. However, if the operating costs continue to rise without additional funding prospects, more measures such as further ticket price increases, reduced schedules, a smaller fleet, or even ceasing operations may be considered, negatively impacting the humanitarian and development communities' access to populations.
- **Supply Chain constraints:** The only corridor authorized for importing humanitarian goods into Niger is through Burkina Faso, despite other borders being open for commercial use. This route remains dangerous for transporters, costly and prone to additional delays. Some 5,690 mt of goods are scheduled to arrive in Niger via Lomé Port/ Burkina Faso between July and December.
- **Funding:** WFP requires US\$ 108 million from July to December 2024, representing 76.4 percent of the total needs for the same period. Of this, US\$ 67.2 million is required for crisis response, US\$ 38 million for the integrated resilience package and US\$ 2.8 million for UNHAS.