



World Food Programme

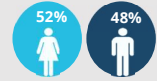
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Niger Country Brief July 2024



July in Numbers

701,447 people assisted in July*
247,851 through crisis response
453,596 through resilience building



2,353 mt of food assistance distributed*

US\$ 3.6 million cash-based transfers made*

US\$ 106 million six-month net funding requirements
(August 2024 – January 2025)

*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**

2024 HDI report: **Ranked 189th out of 193**

Income level: **Low income**

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

Strategic Updates

- **WFP Niger Representative's Presentation of Credentials:** On 23 July, the new Representative and Country Director (CD), Ms. Kinday Samba, presented her letter of credentials to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Bakary Yaou Sangaré. She conveyed WFP's dedication to zero hunger and alignment with the government's food sovereignty objectives. H.E. Minister Sangaré recognized WFP's strategic role in building resilience and supporting vulnerable communities across Niger. WFP's CD and the Deputy Country Director (DCD) held subsequent meetings with the Ministers of Humanitarian Action and Transport, focusing on strengthening collaboration and finding solutions to enhance the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Niger.
- **Visit of the UN Deputy Secretary-General to Niger:** Between 24-25 July, the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohammed, visited Niamey, Niger. During her visit, she held constructive dialogue with the Government, including meeting with the Head of State and President of the National Council for the Safeguarding of the Homeland (CNSP), General Abdourahamane Tiani. The DSG's visit aimed to reaffirm Niger's valued status in the UN and emphasize the UN's commitment to supporting the Government of Niger's developmental priorities.

Operational Update

- **Crisis Response:** In July, a total of 247,851 beneficiaries received assistance out of the 618,554 planned. These delays in distributions are due to late confirmation of funds and access constraints in Tillabéri and Tahoua regions in particular.
- **Nutrition:** In July, WFP reached 76,742 children affected by Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), focusing exclusively on children aged 6 – 23 months in high/very high hotspot areas. This compares to a monthly planned target of 102,500. Due to security concerns, beneficiaries in Tahoua and Tillabéri could not be assisted, leaving people without treatment as 213 health facilities did not receive their monthly allocations of Specialized Nutritious Food .

Rural development and livelihood support: In July, WFP assisted 376,854 beneficiaries through unconditional cash distributions for the lean season. Additionally, WFP built the skills of 145,000 households by providing capacity strengthening on agricultural and cultivation practices, as well as developing and monitoring 162 vegetable gardens. Land for these projects was either loaned or donated by a local landowner, and WFP invested in the infrastructure to enable beneficiaries to use it.

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Photo caption: Clearing ponds in Maygardayé, Zinder region
[@WFP/Adamou Sani Dan Salaou](https://www.instagram.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 (August 2024 – January 2025)
314.7 million	106 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, (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

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.

- **Integrated Resilience Package:** WFP completed an in-depth analysis, revealing that 50 percent of the 535 resilience activity sites have been successfully integrated, marking significant progress in the program's rollout. Additionally, WFP prepared anticipatory actions for potential flood responses, enhancing its capacity to respond to climate-related crises.
- **UNHAS:** UNHAS transported 1,263 passengers and 2.2 mt of light cargo. UNHAS operations were disrupted during July due to lack of fuel available in the country.

Assessments and Market

- **Market:** According to the June 2024 market analysis, the prices of basic commodities remain significantly above the five-year seasonal average. The observed increases are 48 percent for millet, 55 percent for sorghum, 55 percent for maize, 45 percent for imported rice, and 62 percent for cowpeas. This situation negatively affects the purchasing power of beneficiaries.
- **The results of the nationwide food security monitoring survey** conducted in collaboration with the SAP (the National Early Warning System) in June were released. The main findings indicate that, overall, the household food situation is precarious. The Food Consumption Score reveals that only 35.4 percent of households have adequate (acceptable) food consumption. Factors contributing to inadequate food consumption include household size, education level, income sources, economic shocks, rising food prices, and the worsening security situation.

Challenges

- **UNHAS Flight Suspension due to fuel shortages:** On 30 July, UNHAS was informed by its main jet fuel supplier, OLA, of fuel stock depletion in Agadez, Diffa, and Zinder. Consequently, UNHAS suspended flights to Diffa and Agadez, impacting the movement of development and humanitarian workers and the delivery of essential supplies. Fuel shortages, exacerbated by delays in fuel imports and restrictions on fuel sales, pose a significant threat to the continuity of UNHAS operations, including critical medical evacuations. WFP is actively advocating for a stable fuel supply to ensure the continuation of these vital services.
- **Security and Access Challenges impacting distributions:** WFP operations continue to face various administrative and security challenges. These include delays in securing required armed escorts for humanitarian missions and food transportation, as well as occasional movement restrictions in response to security incidents. These constraints are posing significant delays for implementation of WFP activities in Tillaberi and Tahoua regions particularly, including food distributions during the peak of the lean season response.
- **Severe resourcing constraints** forced WFP to adopt a drastic prioritization strategy, reducing the provision of emergency assistance to 871,435 people, far below the planned 1.9 million. This reduction risks worsening food security as communities may be forced to adopt negative coping strategies.