



SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Niger Country Brief August 2024



August in Numbers

1,196,300 people assisted in August*
630,500 people through crisis response
565,800 people through resilience building

5,112 mt of food assistance distributed*

US\$ 2 million cash-based transfers made*

US\$ 94.9 million six-month net funding requirement (Sept 2024-Feb 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) were 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 were compounded by the socio-economic impact of the 2023 **political crisis**, the subsequent sanctions and suspension of external assistance from several bilateral partners to Niger.

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's Regional Director visit to Niger:** WFP's Regional Director for West Africa visited Niamey from 6-8 August. During this visit, the RD met with Niger's Prime Minister Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine, reaffirming WFP's commitment to supporting the Government in advancing their food sovereignty agenda through food systems strengthening. The visit served as a follow-up from recent high-level UN visits to Niger with the RD raising the need for a conducive operating environment for humanitarian and development actors to be able to reach populations in need across the country. As well as the Prime Minister and members of his cabinet, the RD met with the Ministers of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Environment, Agriculture and Humanitarian Action.
- Severe Flooding Triggers Humanitarian Response:** Exceptionally heavy rainfall continued across Niger with flooding worsening throughout August in all regions of the country. By the end of August, nearly **650,000** people were affected and **265 deaths** recorded. Infrastructure, including roads, houses and school and health facilities have been damaged leaving populations displaced and without access to basic services. Significant crop losses and destruction of farmland and livestock are also recorded. The Government of Niger's multipartner Task Force is coordinating multisectoral relief efforts, with the Government distributing food and essential supplies. **WFP is complementing the Government's efforts through the provision of cash transfers to 151,000 people.** Flooding is exacerbating an already critical food security situation with 3.4 million people food insecure at the peak of the ongoing lean season.
- Access Restrictions delaying delivery of assistance at peak of lean season:** By the end of August, approximately 123,639 beneficiaries across 23 communes, mainly in the Tillabéri region, were affected by restricted access, resulting in nearly 4,500 metric tons of food intended for these populations being stuck in WFP warehouses, unable to be moved without authorized escorts. Thanks to the successful negotiation between WFP and the Government, a convoy plan was established to ensure that specialized nutrition products reached health centres, thereby sustaining malnutrition prevention efforts.
- Lifting of 10 percent tax on VAT Exemption:** On 16 August, the Government of Niger announced the lifting of the 10 percent tax on VAT exemption for goods and services for all UN and diplomatic missions. This tax had been announced in May 2024. This decision now allows WFP to proceed with the importation of stocks located outside of Niger, facilitating the timely delivery of essential supplies to those in need.

Contact info: sarah.stewart@wfp.org
Country Director: Kinday SAMBA
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/niger

Photo caption: Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) in Maradi region. @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 (Sept 2024–February 2025)
314.7 million	94.9 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

Operational Update

- **Crisis Response:** A total of 630,500 beneficiaries received emergency assistance throughout August. Security-related access challenges caused significant delays and hindered the full implementation of activities as well as access challenges linked to impassable roads due to flooding. Agricultural lean season and flood response are ongoing, with WFP aiming to reach a total of 940,000 beneficiaries once these operations are completed.
- **Nutrition:** In August, WFP reached 189,000 children with curative and preventive supplementation focusing on children aged 6 – 23 months in high/very high hotspot areas.
- **Rural development and livelihood support:** In August, WFP supported 376,854 beneficiaries that participate in Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) actions with unconditional cash assistance during the lean season. This support seeks to ensure vulnerable populations do not fall back into food insecurity during the months prior to the harvest.
- **UNHAS:** UNHAS transported 1,164 passengers and 3 mt of light cargo as well as carrying out one MEDEVAC. During the month of August, UNHAS four flights were canceled due to unfavorable weather conditions and services to Diffa were interrupted due to limited access to jet fuel.

Assessments and Market

- **Food security monitoring/assessment:** A survey was conducted in June to monitor food security across the country, sampling 1,200 households. Results revealed that, during the three months preceding the survey (March to May 2024), 49 percent of households faced unusual economic difficulties, with regional variations. Key challenges included rising food prices (35 percent) and loss of employment or income due to reduced cross-border activities (13 percent). Only 35.4 percent of households had adequate food consumption, and the average coping strategy index (rCSI) was 10.7, reflecting negative coping mechanisms. Additionally, 6 percent of households are resorting to emergency livelihood strategies (Mortgaged or sold home or land due to a lack of food or money to buy food; begged or asked strangers for money/food; engaged in socially degrading, or life-threatening activities, etc.).
- **Market:** According to the August market analysis, commodity prices are well above the average of the last five years with increases of 53 percent for millet, 59 percent for sorghum, 56 percent for corn, 50 percent for imported rice, and 71 percent for cowpea. This situation negatively affects the purchasing power of beneficiaries.

Challenges

- **Funding constraints:** WFP sustained its prioritization measures for crisis response activities due to insufficient funding. Additional contributions received in early August enabled WFP to increase its targeting, in line with the prioritization strategy. However, WFP will still only be able to reach **1 million** people with emergency assistance in 2024 representing a reduction of almost 50 percent compared to the initial 2024 plan of 1.9 million. WFP urgently requires US\$ 94.9 million from September 2024 to February 2025, including US\$ 57.2 million for crisis response activities alone.
- **Rising Operational Costs of UNHAS operations:** UNHAS operations continue to face elevated operational costs due to additional administrative fees and high fuel prices. Moreover, during the reporting period, access to fuel was disrupted, resulting in the cancellation of five flights between 2-9 August.