



World Food Programme

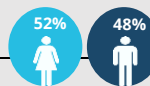
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Niger Country Brief September 2024



In Numbers

1,068,700 people assisted in September*



5,029 mt of food assistance distributed*

USD 2.2 million cash-based transfers made*

US\$ 86.6 million six-month net funding requirement (Oct 2024-Mar 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.

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.**

Operational Updates

- **Arrival of newly appointed United Nations Resident Coordinator:** The new United Nations Resident Coordinator/ Humanitarian Coordinator in Niger, Ms. Mama Keita, officially assumed her duties on 25 September 2024. In presenting her credentials to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Keita reinforced the UN's commitment to strengthening collaboration with the Government to promote inclusive and sustainable development in Niger.
- **WFP's flooding response:** As of 30 September, nearly 1.4 million people across Niger had been affected by extreme flooding, with 373 deaths recorded. According to FEWSNET, the proportion of people facing emergency-level acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 4) will probably increase by 5 to 10 percent in the regions of Tillabéri, Diffa, Tahoua, and Maradi. The Government and partners continue to deliver a coordinated response, with WFP providing cash transfers to 151,000 people in affected regions.
- **Positive indications for the Agro-Pastoral Season:** According to WFP's recent monitoring, the agro-pastoral season is progressing well, with rainfall levels above the five-year average. As of 30 September 2024, agricultural activities are nearing completion although the risk of localized moderate rainfall could potentially affect ongoing harvests. Pastoral conditions are also favourable, with abundant forage across the pastoral zone. Challenges to ensure these positive results assure increased agricultural output persist, such as insecurity, flooding, and rising prices of animal feed. Indeed, the recent floods have caused unprecedented human and material losses, including across the agricultural and pastoral sectors. Despite these challenges, expectations are for a solid rain-fed agricultural output during the upcoming harvest.
- **Emergency Responses:** In September, a total of **481,335** beneficiaries received assistance out of **373,237** planned as the lean season response continued. WFP's emergency response activities in Tillabéri, which had been significantly reduced since May 2024 due to access constraints, were resumed at scale from September. Distributions are ongoing, with WFP providing 2 months of assistance to 189,000 people in Tillabéri through both food and cash modalities.
- **Nutrition:** In September WFP reached **210,597** children with **curative** and **preventive** supplementation (under emergency and resilience building activities).
- **Rural development and livelihood support:** In September, WFP supported **376,854** beneficiaries that participate in Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) actions with unconditional cash assistance as part of the package of assistance during the lean season.
- **United Nations Humanitarian Air Service:** UNHAS transported **1,140** passengers and **3.8 mt** of light cargo. UNHAS services are currently sustained until 2 April 2025. During the month of September, no flights were cancelled.

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Photo caption: Awareness session and culinary demonstration at the FARN in the Diffa region. @WFP/Abdoul Raffick GAISSA

Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2024)

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
1.51 billion	846 million
2024 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (Oct 24–Mar 25)
314.7 million	US\$ 86.6 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.

Assessments and Market

- Market Price Monitoring:** In September, food prices experienced a modest decline compared to the previous month, thanks to new harvests across almost all regions of the country and in neighboring countries. Specifically, the price of millet dropped by 17 percent, sorghum by 7 percent, maize by 10 percent, imported rice by 3 percent and cowpeas by 14 percent. However, food prices remained significantly higher than in September 2023 and well above the average for the last five years, with millet being 37 percent more expensive; sorghum 51 percent more expensive; maize 39 percent more expensive; imported rice 40 percent more expensive; and cowpeas 53 percent more expensive.
- Survey highlighting food security challenges:** A nationwide food security monitoring (mVAM), conducted with SAP in June, revealed that only 35.4 percent of households had acceptable food consumption, with factors such as large household sizes, low education levels, limited income sources, short food stock duration, shocks, and rising food prices contributing to food insecurity.
- Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM)** for WFP's pastoral lean season response was completed in September with increases in beneficiaries' acceptable food consumption score from 17 to 37 percent. However, with market prices remaining exceptionally elevated, Food Security Cluster partners continue to recommend a revision to the Minimum Expenditure Basket to account for the level of inflation within responses.

Challenges

- Access restrictions:** As of 6 September 2024, some 129,075 beneficiaries in 20 communes were affected by access restrictions. Approximately 4,400 mt of food commodities intended for distribution in Tillaberi in July and August began to be transported to populations in need in the region, although the pace of transportation remains sub-optimal as transporters must wait for escorts.
- Escort Cost:** The use of armed escorts to access certain regions of Niger remains compulsory for the movement of personnel and delivery of food commodities. The cost of these escorts, negotiated by WFP's contracted transportation service providers, is driving up WFP's operational costs, putting pressure on humanitarian budgets, and reducing the resources available for direct assistance to vulnerable communities.

Voices from the field



Photo caption: Lean season assistance in Diffa @WFP/ Aissa Omar Manga

My name is Yande Modou, a mother of five and a refugee from Djabolon, Nigeria. We fled to Ketchindi and have been living in the Diffa region for the past ten years. With the support we've received, we have enough food and can live in peace during the lean season. We are truly grateful for everything WFP has done for us.