



World Food Programme

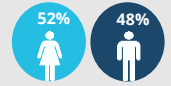
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Niger Country Brief October 2024



In Numbers

386,447 people assisted in October*



1,554 mt of food assistance distributed*

US\$ 1.9 million cash-based transfers made*

US\$ 91.6 million six-month net funding requirement (Nov 2024-Apr 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 provides school meals to support children back to school:** On 28 October, WFP participated in the official launch of the 2024-2025 school year, led by the Ministry of National Education, Literacy, Vocational Training, and Promotion of National Languages. The start of the school year had been delayed by several weeks due to massive flooding across the country that displaced over 1.4 million people, most of whom were accommodated in school premises.
- **Celebration of the World Food Day:** On 23 October, WFP participated in the World Food Day celebrations in Dogondoutchi, Dosso region, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WFP. The event emphasized the importance of promoting strong food systems to reach food security in Niger. The Minister of Agriculture highlighted the need for increased support to local producers to ensure abundant and high-quality harvests, launching a new irrigated cropping season initiative that seeks to better adapt agricultural practices in areas at risk of drought and flooding. WFP actively supports the government's goals to expand irrigation infrastructure at the small and large scale to boost production and strengthen livelihoods. The celebration also provided a platform for WFP-supported farmers' organizations to showcase fortified local food products produced in community processing units, demonstrating the value chain and nutritional potential for local produce.
- **Monitoring Mission of WFP' National Coordination Cell (CNC):** Between 30 September and 21 October, WFP and key government Ministries organized a series of joint missions in Dosso, Zinder, Tahoua, and Maradi aimed at gathering regional feedback on WFP interventions, strengthening collaboration among regional stakeholders, and assessing progress in local committee meetings. This mission provided valuable insights into coordination and monitoring practices, affirming the strong foundation of WFP's collaboration with the Government and enhancing joint accountability for supporting communities.

Operational Update

- **Emergency Responses:** WFP Niger assisted 167,483 people under crisis response interventions in October. The floods response continued, and responses are being actively scaled-up to support 500,000 people affected, compared to the initial 151,000 targeted. In addition, the agriculture lean season response continued in certain areas of Niger. Delays faced due to access constraints in Tillabéri and Tahoua had forced WFP to redirect assistance mid-way through the lean season to other priorities areas, extending the planned response period.

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Photo caption: School canteen beneficiary in the Zinder region.
[@WFP/Adamou Dan Salau](https://twitter.com/WFP/Adamou_Dan_Salau)

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2025)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
1.81 billion	937.7 million
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (Nov 24–Apr 25)
314.7 million	US\$ 91.6 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, (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.

- **School feeding:** WFP resumed school feeding on 28 October, reaching 325,337 children in 1,666 schools across Niger. In-kind food is being delivered, with cash transfers set to resume in January 2025, supporting the Government's Home-Grown School Feeding program.

- **Nutrition:** In October, WFP reached 218,964 children with curative and preventive supplementation for children aged 6-23 months affected by Moderate Acute Malnutrition.

- **Rural development and livelihood support:** No Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities were conducted in October. WFP conducted a bootcamp in Dosso focused on integrated resilience.

- **UNHAS:** In October, UNHAS transported **1,487** passengers and **3.2 mt** of light cargo. UNHAS services are currently sustained until 23 April 2025.

Assessments and Market

- **Market Price Monitoring:** In October, food prices declined compared to the previous months. Millet prices dropped by 19 percent, sorghum by 19 percent, maize by 21 percent, and imported rice by 3 percent. Cowpea experienced an even sharper decrease, with prices falling by 30 percent.

- **Assessment:** The Early Warning System (SAP), in collaboration with WFP and other partners, has prepared a national food security survey (*Sentinel Sites*). The results will provide a critical component of the data for the upcoming the Cadre Harmonisé analysis scheduled for 1-6 December 2024.

- **Monitoring of Nutritional Products in Markets:** Through routine market monitoring, WFP has identified the presence of quantities of nutritional commodities in local markets. WFP is investigating in collaboration with national and regional authorities to enhance control measures and ensure appropriate distribution of nutritional products.

Challenges

- **Supply Chain challenges:** The only authorized corridor for importing humanitarian goods into Niger remains through Lomé, via Burkina Faso. WFP faces significant challenges along this route, including heightened security risks, delays, and transporters' reluctance to use the Burkina Faso corridor. The average transit time via this corridor has increased to 67 days, compared to the previous 10-15 days when the Cotonou corridor was operational prior to July 2023.

- **Access and Security:** The security situation is marked by threats from armed groups and criminal activity, including convoy attacks. On 30 October 2024, a security incident occurred involving a WFP truck transporting food supply as part of the strategic convoy from Kaya-Dori-Tera, which was attacked. Thanks to the intervention of authorities, the truck was successfully recovered with its food supplies intact and delivered to its destination.

- **Resource constraints:** The uncertain resourcing outlook threatens WFP's ability to scale up resilience efforts threatening the immediate well-being of vulnerable populations and the sustainability of long-term resilience initiatives. WFP requires US\$ 50.2 million for resilience activities for the next six months (November 2024 – April 2025).