



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Niger Country Brief December 2024

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.

Regional CILSS projections indicated that 3.4 million people (13 percent of the total population) were acutely food insecure (phases 3 and 4) during the 2024 June-August lean season, marking 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 increased 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**, and 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, which has now been extended till 2025. WFP provides emergency assistance to crisis-affected communities including refugees, internally displaced persons, and host communities. Simultaneously, through resilience-building activities, WFP promotes healthy food systems by revitalizing ecosystems, enhancing livelihoods, and improving access to basic services such as education and nutrition. This approach, increasingly 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.

In Numbers

1.76 million people assisted in December*

2,078 metric tons of food distributed*

US\$ 2.7 million of cash-based transfers made*

US\$ 93.6 million six-month net funding requirement (Jan – Jun 2025)

*Preliminary figures



Strategic Updates

- Cadre Harmonisé results:** The December 2024 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) revealed that 1.5 million people, representing 5.6 percent of the country's total population, are currently severely food insecure (Phase 3 (Crisis) or Phase 4 (Emergency)). These results were officially validated by the government's Early Warning System Coordination Unit (CC/SAP) and confirmed regionally by the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). Projections indicate that between June and August 2025, 2.2 million people, or 8.1 percent of the total population, will fall into Phase 3 (Crisis) or Phase 4 (Emergency) of food insecurity. The most significant increases are expected in the regions of Maradi (73 percent) and Dosso (55 percent).
- Progress in preventing the sale of nutrition products on the market:** WFP and UNICEF successfully advocated for a government ban on the commercial sale of specialized nutritious foods in Niger. Local authorities in several regions took effective action to ensure that this life-saving support reaches malnourished children and is not diverted and sold on local markets. WFP will support the enforcement of the regulations in line with its commitment to operational effectiveness and responsible delivery.
- WFP Niger Representative mission to Abidjan:** Ms. Kinday Samba undertook a working mission to Abidjan on 5–6 December, which began with a Signing Ceremony with Japan for a new contribution. This US\$ 1.9 million contribution will help WFP support over 19,000 vulnerable individuals and provide school meals to 12,000 children. Building on this opportunity, the Country Director also met with the Korean Ambassador in Abidjan, who expressed interest in gaining deeper insights into WFP's work in Niger. The visit also involved discussions with KOICA representatives and concluded with a meeting at the African Development Bank (AfDB), discussing opportunities to jointly support food sovereignty in Niger.
- Meeting with transport agents:** On 11 December, WFP Niger Representative chaired a hybrid meeting with transport service providers in Niger to discuss the risks faced by transporters in delivering food amid growing insecurity. Transporters highlighted challenges such as delays due to escort requirements, inconsistent approval processes, and differing security measures compared to private or local deliveries. Despite this, they expressed pride in supporting WFP's mission.

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

Photo caption: WFP training for farmer organizations in Maradi on processing techniques and product quality management. @WFP/Adamou Dan Salau

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2024)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
1.51 billion	1 billion
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (Jan – June 2025)
314.7 million	US\$ 93.6 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 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.

Operational Update

- Emergency Response:** In December, WFP Niger provided lifesaving assistance to **712,582** individuals through the Rapid Response Mechanism, targeting displaced populations, migrants, and victims of pluvial and fluvial floods. Assistance was also delivered to the most vulnerable IDPs, refugees, and host households in a protracted situation. Despite significant operational challenges, WFP has sustained the implementation of critical interventions, including in hard-to-reach areas.
- School feeding:** In December, WFP continued its school feeding activities, reaching **325,337** children in 1,666 schools across Niger.
- Nutrition:** In December, WFP reached **140,458** children with curative supplementation for moderately malnourished children aged 6 -23 months.
- Rural Development:** A total of **586,566** people participated in FFA activities. Within this group, 27,532 children aged 6–23 months received nutritional supplements to prevent malnutrition. Furthermore, 307,396 persons participated in different training activities.
- UNHAS:** In December, UNHAS transported 1,316 passengers and 2.4 mt of light cargo. UNHAS also operated two special flights. UNHAS services are currently sustained until July 2025.

Assessments and Market

- Assessment:** The “Cadre Harmonisé” analysis was conducted in December 2024 with the technical and financial support of WFP. Globally, the results anticipate an improvement in food security during the 2025 lean season compared to the same period in 2024.
- Monitoring:** Annual Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) has been launched to collect outcome indicators from households supported through the protracted and resilience response.
- Markets:** In December 2024, food prices showed a relative stability compared to November 2024, notably millet and imported rice and also cowpea remained stable. On the other hand, the price of sorghum decreased by 3 percent, while maize prices rose by 5 percent. Price stability is primarily attributed to the availability of new harvests on the market.

Challenges

- Negative funding outlook for 2025:** WFP is experiencing a challenging global funding environment, with projections suggesting reductions in 2025.
- Operational delays:** In December, WFP faced significant operational challenges, including delays caused by the transition to new cooperating partners following the revocation of the authorization of APBE by the Government. This adjustment impacted the timely implementation of activities, requiring additional coordination efforts to ensure continuity of operations and support to vulnerable communities.
- Security and access challenges:** Insecurity in parts of the Tillabéri region, including Bankilaré, Tamou, and Ourou-Gueladjo, has disrupted assistance to 24,300 displaced people for over six months. Discussions with OCHA and humanitarian partners are underway to consider military escorts. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are being developed to guide decision-making and minimize the use of such measures as a last resort.