



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Niger Country Brief January 2025

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 November Cadre Harmonisé released by CILSS at regional level, 1.5 million people (5.6 percent of the total population) are severely food insecure (phases 3 and 4) during the November-December 2024 period and 2.2 million people are projected to be severely food insecure during the 2025 lean season (June - August).

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.**

In Numbers

1 million people assisted in January*

3,423 metric tons of food distributed*

US\$ 228,340 of cash-based transfers made*

US\$ 104.9 million six-month net funding requirements (Feb – July 2025)

*Preliminary figures



Strategic Updates

- Preliminary results of WFP's 2024 responses:** In 2024, WFP assisted **3.1 million people** (53 percent women; 47 percent men), which is approximately 87 percent of the planned target of 3.5 million people. A total of 1.47 million people received lifesaving assistance, and 1.64 million people participated in resilience building activities. These achievements came despite the challenging operating environment, with access and security constraints affecting the importation and delivery of vital assistance. Supply chain constraints were faced throughout the year as importation through the Burkina Faso corridor remained slow, posing operational delays particularly for the timely arrival of specialized nutritious products. Resource constraints required strict prioritization measures for crisis response interventions, including at the peak of the lean season, reducing the impact of assistance delivered due to reductions in rations and duration of planned assistance. Elevated operational costs, including for UNHAS, and challenges linked to cooperating partner changes were also notable.
- WFP Niger Internal Audit Report:** The official report of an Internal Audit into WFP Niger's operations by WFP's Office of Internal Audit was published on 16 January. In a proactive effort to ensure transparency and open dialogue, the country office convened a meeting with donors on 14 January, ahead of the report's release, to brief them on the audit findings. The discussions were constructive, providing an opportunity to address donors' concerns and enhance mutual understanding. The audit identified key areas for improvement in risk management, oversight, partner management, cash transfers, and monitoring. An action plan has been put in place to address the findings.
- Sahel Resilience Partnership Workshop:** Between 29-30 January, UNICEF, WFP and GIZ held a workshop to reflect on the first year of the Sahel Resilience Partnership (SRP) implementation. The agencies reflected on key achievements at the regional level, challenges, lessons learned and undertook planning for the second year of implementation. The workshop provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen coordination among partners and increase the effectiveness of resilience-building efforts in the Sahel.
- Global Assurance Plan implementation:** In 2023, WFP launched the Global Assurance Project to ensure that assistance reaches the right people safely and without interference. Thirty-one high-risk operations were prioritized for enhanced assurance plans. In 2024, the Global Assurance project achieved 92 percent completion of its actions. Key accomplishments include community-based targeting, enhanced fraud monitoring, improved identity management, comprehensive training for partners, and effective commodity management.

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Photo caption: School breakfast at Chadakori Est Primary School, Maradi Region – @Adamou Sani Dan Salaou

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2025)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
1.81 billion	1.02 billion
2025 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (Feb– July 25)
207.6 million	US\$ 104.9 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 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 January, WFP Niger provided lifesaving assistance to **208,980** displaced populations and migrants in Assamaka camps compared to the planned target of 593,232.
- **School feeding:** WFP continues to support over **325,000** children in 1,666 schools with daily school meals across Niger. Additionally, WFP sustains quarterly distributions of attendance-based grants for adolescent, targeting approximately 36,000 girls for this first phase of the 2024-2025 school year.
- **Nutrition:** In January, WFP reached **22,104** children with curative supplementation for moderately malnourished children aged 6 - 23 months compared to 36,667 planned target.
- **Rural Development:** A total of **484,253** people participated in FFA activities. Within this group, 27,532 children aged 6–23 months received nutritional supplements to prevent malnutrition. Furthermore, 456,799 people participated in different training activities.
- **UNHAS:** In January, UNHAS transported 1,091 passengers and 3.24 mt of light cargo. UNHAS also operated two special flights and carried out 3 MEDEVAC. UNHAS services are currently sustained until mid-September 2025.

Assessments and Market

- **Assessment:** WFP prepared an analysis on the key results of the November 2024 Cadre Harmonisé. Key findings include an increase in cereal production compared to last year and a surplus in forage stock. However, the linkage between conflict and elevated food insecurity remains evident with the Tillabéri and Diffa regions having the highest levels of food insecurity, affecting 17 percent and 15 percent of their populations, respectively. [Cadre Harmonisé Novembre 2024 - note.pdf](#)
- **Monitoring:** WFP trained cooperating partners on new targeting tools to enhance their capacity for the 2025 process. In addition, WFP and TPM monitored 393 sites to support data-driven decisions. WFP will produce a monthly bulletin to report on the findings. The first version is set for release by the end of February.
- **Markets:** In January 2025, food prices increased overall compared to December 2024 for most commodities. Millet increased by 6 percent, maize by 2 percent, sorghum by 3 percent and cowpeas by 5 percent. The price of imported rice remained stable, due to the arrival on the market of the new local rice harvest.

Challenges

- **Security and access challenges:** The security situation remained complex, with various incidents reported across all regions, impacting humanitarian operations. Access challenges persisted in Bankilaré, Tamou, and Ouro-Gueladjo (Tillabéri region) due to the security context, including movement restrictions. As a result, over 31,000 beneficiaries, most of whom have been without assistance for nearly eight months, remain difficult to reach.
- **Funding constraints for 2025:** WFP requires US\$ 104.9 million for the next six months (February – July); however, projected new resources for this period currently amount to less than US\$ 8 million. In the absence of additional funding, WFP will implement substantial reductions in planned assistance across Crisis Response and Resilience activities from as soon as March.
- **Impact of USAID Suspension on WFP Operations in Niger:** The 90-day suspension of U.S. foreign aid presents an additional challenge to WFP's operations, immediately impacting resilience activities. WFP has informed partners and communities of required operational adjustments.