



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Niger Country Brief February 2024

Operational Context

Niger is a vast, landlocked country located in the heart of the Sahel region in West Africa. Despite an abundance of natural resources, the country is ranked the fourth least developed country globally (Human Development Index, 2024). Chronic vulnerabilities persist due to a variety of compounding factors, including rapid demographic growth, an underdeveloped economy and a lack of access to basic services and infrastructure. Extreme gender inequalities further exacerbate vulnerabilities. According to the November *Cadre Harmonisé*, 2.2 million people are projected face severe food insecurity during the 2025 lean season (June - August). More than 50 percent of children under five suffer from at least one form of malnutrition. **Forty-seven percent are chronically malnourished** and over **12.2 percent are acutely malnourished**, with 1.5 million children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 0.4 million suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM). 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), **high food prices**. Niger is also marked by widespread land degradation, which constrains agricultural potential and amplifies the impacts of these risks. The already complex humanitarian situation was further exacerbated by the socio-economic impact of the 2023 **political crisis**, followed by sanctions and the 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 2020-2025 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.



2024 HDI report: **Ranked 189th out of 193**

Chronic malnutrition: **47 % of children aged 6 - 59 months.**

Population: **27 million**

Income level: **Low income**

In Numbers

1.1 million people assisted in February*

6,273 Metric Tons (MT) of food distributed*

USD 1,002,635 of cash-based transfers made

USD 116.7 million six-month net funding requirement (Mar – Aug 2025)

**Preliminary figures*



Strategic Updates

- Resilience Exposition:** WFP, in partnerships with the Ministry of Agriculture and the **Abdou Moumouni University**, organized a Resilience Exposition in Niamey on 26–27 February 2025 to showcase Niger's progress in resilience-building and its contribution to global climate goals. The Expo, which was positively covered in national news outlets, brought together representatives from the government, the UN, national and international NGOs, as well as researchers, students, partners and representatives from Producer Organizations. The event highlighted local and national initiatives in land restoration, food security, social cohesion, and climate adaptation, while fostering strategic partnerships with financial institutions, UN agencies, and civil society. It also served as a platform for aligning Niger's efforts with global climate discussions, particularly those from COP28.
- Operational prioritization due to limited funding outlook:** WFP faces significant funding constraints, exacerbated by the temporary suspension of USAID-funded resilience programmes. WFP urgently requires USD 116.7 million between March and August 2025 to provide lifesaving and life-changing assistance to vulnerable populations across Niger at the planned levels. WFP has rapidly developed a Prioritization Plan to account for the significant funding gaps projected for all CSP activities, with reductions in targeted beneficiaries and assistance starting from March 2025 onwards. Without the confirmation of new contributions, WFP will be forced to reduce its emergency response to assist only 300,000 people (out of the 1.4 million planned) from April onwards with further reductions to this prioritization foreseen by September should the resourcing situation not improve. WFP's resilience activities, impacted by the temporary suspension of USAID projects, will also be reduced with rural development activities suspended in March, affecting 560,000 people, while 130,000 children under five will not be able to receive nutrition supplementation for acute malnutrition from March onwards.
- Joint visit to Agadez by WFP, IOM and the Embassy of Spain:** On 28 February, WFP's Country Director accompanied a delegation from the Spanish Embassy in Niger, including the Ambassador, and IOM's Representative (ai) on a one-day visit to Agadez. During the mission, the delegation visited IOM's Migrant Center in Agadez town, exchanging with migrants to understand their needs and the support required from partners to ensure they are addressed. WFP provides daily hot meals to migrants in Assamaka, with most of the migrants met in Agadez having passed through WFP or IOM supported camps in Assamaka. The delegation also met with the Regional Governor and the Sultan de l'Air to reaffirm our joint commitment to address the needs of the communities in Agadez and support the region's development.

Contact info: Corinna.Kreidler@wfp.org

Country Director: Kinday SAMBA

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/niger

Photo caption: Resilience exhibition – @Adamou Sani Dan Salaou

Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2025)	
Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
1.81 billion	937.7 million
2025 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (Mar– Aug 25)
297.6 million	116.7 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 February, WFP provided lifesaving assistance to **314,119 beneficiaries** including to displaced populations (protracted/rapid response mechanism). Operational challenges affected the timely delivery of assistance to 116,000 beneficiaries, due to local authorities' suspension of distributions in Madaoua (Tahoua) and challenges linked to cash distributions and access constraints in Tillabéri.
- School Meals:** in February, WFP supported over **275,300 children** in **1,550 schools** with daily school meals across Niger. Additionally, WFP sustained quarterly distributions of attendance-based grants for adolescent girls, reaching **29,402 girls** for this first phase of the 2024-2025 school year.
- Nutrition:** In February, WFP reached **47,832 children** with supplementation for moderately malnourished children aged 6 - 23 months compared to 95,834 monthly planned targets.
- Rural Development:** A total of **466,480 people** benefitted from FFA activities including land restoration, dune stabilization, pond cleaning and dredging, and removal of invasive plant species.
- UNHAS:** In February, UNHAS transported **990 passengers** and **2.24 MT** of light cargo. UNHAS also operated **one MEDEVAC**. UNHAS services are currently sustained until September 2025. Passenger and cargo flows declined in February, mainly due to the suspension of US suspension and the closure of several NGOs.

Assessments and Market

- Markets:** In February 2025, monthly food prices remained relatively stable compared to January 2025 for most products. Millet and sorghum showed no change, maize decreased by 1%, imported rice by 2%, while cowpea increased by 3%. On a year-on-year basis, cereal prices slightly decreased compared to February 2024. Maize dropped by 2%, sorghum by 4%, and cowpea saw a significant decrease of 12%. However, prices for several commodities are still above their 5-year average: millet +15%, sorghum +14%, maize +16%, imported rice +28%.

Challenges

- Localized cash restrictions:** In February, several humanitarian actors, including WFP, faced temporary restrictions for the provision of cash responses in Tillabéri. As a result, WFP's assistance was temporarily delayed to 62,299 people in the three communes including Tera, Ayerou and a part of Abala. No formal restriction for the implementation of cash as a modality has been issued for Tillabéri or other regions of Niger. However, the regional authorities in Tillabéri have communicated the potential for formal cash suspensions in the region. WFP has sustained its cash distributions in favor of 26,133 people thanks to continued bilateral negotiations with regional authorities and is exploring alternative modalities to safeguard the provision of assistance should any restrictions be put in place in Niger. WFP intends to implement a pilot for the use of electronic value vouchers during 2025.
- Access and security:** The security situation remains delicate in Niger and access constraints persist, particularly due the mandatory use of paid armed escorts in certain regions. The Humanitarian Country Team in Niger continues to advocate for armed escorts to be a last resort access mechanism in Niger.

Donors

Canada | Denmark | ECHO | France | Germany | Italy | Japan | Luxembourg | Monaco | Norway | Russia | Spain | Switzerland | UN CERF | UK | USAID/BHA | USAID/RFS