



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Niger Country Brief March/April 2025



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, 2022). 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. The country's fragility has been amplified in recent years due to the convergence of conflict, climate and socio-economic shocks. 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). 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 2020-2025 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

827,000+ people assisted in March*

1.1 million people assisted in April*

2,270 metric tons of food distributed*

US\$ 5.5 million of cash-based transfers made ¹

US\$ 81.4 million six-month net funding requirements (May - Oct 2025)

*Preliminary figures



Strategic Updates

- **Donor briefing:** On 25 March, WFP Niger hosted a briefing with donors to update on WFP's operations and the implications of resourcing constraints on life-saving interventions and resilience-building activities. WFP emphasized the importance of maintaining investments in resilience to sustainably reduce humanitarian needs in Niger while advocating for early confirmation of resources to avert potential suspension of vital assistance for vulnerable populations across Niger.
- **Reception Ceremony for Russian Contribution:** On 26 March 2025, [WFP hosted a ceremony upon the reception of](#) 351.9 mt of sunflower oil from the Russian Federation. The ceremony was held with H.E. Igor Gromyko, Ambassador of Russia to Mali and Niger, as well as representatives from the Government. This contribution will support WFP's emergency operations during the 2025 lean season, supporting the delivery of a full and nutritious food basket to 150,000 vulnerable people for three months.
- **Humanitarian needs averted through resilience:** WFP's West and Central Africa Regional Office released an impact study outlining WFP's Integrated Resilience Package (IRP) contribution to reducing food insecurity and humanitarian needs across the Sahel. In targeted areas, food insecurity decreased by 23 percent between the 2018/19 and 2022/23 lean seasons, the [IRP contributed to reducing humanitarian needs for up to 400,000 people during the post-harvest period and up to nearly 1 million people during lean season](#). The study highlights Niger as a model of best practice in the Sahel.
- **Anticipatory Action After Action Review:** Between 11 - 12 March, WFP conducted an After-Action Review workshop to review the December 2024 Anticipatory Action (AA) activation. The sessions brought together technical teams to identify the challenges faced and discuss potential improvements to strengthen future interventions. The workshop concluded with key lessons learned and the development of an operational readiness plan that is being implemented in 2025 ahead of potential AA triggers.
- **WFP Contributes to Climate Action and Finance Workshop:** Between 16 - 17 April 2025, WFP took part in a workshop on climate action and finance in Niger, organized by the British Embassy and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the World Bank. The event aimed to enhance stakeholders' understanding of climate finance and identify challenges and opportunities for Niger in accessing such finance. WFP presented on the cost-efficiency and impact of its resilience package as pertinent climate action in Niger, while presenting on possible access to carbon finance based on largescale carbon sequestration potential in Niger.

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2025)	
Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
1.81 billion	937.7 million
2025 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (May - Oct 25)
297.7 million	USD 81.4 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 April, WFP provided lifesaving assistance to 668,737 beneficiaries under the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) for newly displaced refugees and IDPs, protracted interventions for vulnerable displaced persons and host communities, and assistance to migrants in Assamaka (which increased significantly this month by more than 45 percent of the initial monthly plan of 2,000 migrants, following the escalated arrivals from Algeria). WFP also launched the pastoral lean-season response, targeting the most vulnerable households based on the December 2024 Cadre Harmonisé. In March, a total of 441,050 people were supported.
- School Meals:** In April, WFP provided daily school meals to 299,691 children across 1,550 schools. In addition, second-quarterly attendance-based grants were distributed to 33,000 adolescent girls. In March 307,341 children were supported.
- Nutrition:** In April, WFP reached 65,237 children aged 6–23 months with supplementation of moderate acute malnutrition, and 27,971 for the prevention of malnutrition. In March, a total of 79,415 children in the same age group were reached.
- Rural Development:** In April 47,600 people benefited from Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities in Maradi. In March, WFP provided capacity-strengthening sessions to 145,000 producers from FFA sites on various topics, including production, management of assets created on agro-sylvo-pastoral sites, etc.
- UNHAS:** In April, UNHAS transported 962 passengers and 1.89 mt of cargo. In March, it transported 811 passengers and 2.22 mt of light cargo, and also operated one MEDEVAC. Due to declining passenger demand, UNHAS Niger Steering Committee decided to reduce operations to a single aircraft starting on 01 June 2025.

Assessments and Market

- Markets:** In April 2025, food prices remained broadly stable compared with March 2025. Only imported rice recorded a slight drop of 2 percent. Compared with April 2024, there was a general downward trend in prices. Sorghum fell by 13 percent, maize by 16 percent, millet by 10 percent, imported rice by 5 percent, and cowpea saw a marked decline of 23 percent.
- Assessment:** In March, the National Institute of Statistics (INS) and the Early Warning System (SAP), in collaboration with WFP and other partners, conducted training sessions and launched data collection for the National Household Vulnerability to Food Insecurity Survey, known as “EVIAM.” The data analysis was conducted in April. The report is currently being finalized and once officially validated by the Government, will be shared with partners.

Challenges

- Funding constraints:** WFP Niger is navigating an extremely constrained resourcing environment. From May to October 2025, it faces a net funding shortfall of US\$ 81.4 million, representing 57 percent of the US\$ 142.1 million required. Without urgent additional funding, life-saving assistance is at serious risk of interruption.
- Access and security:** During the reporting period, the security situation remained volatile, marked by continued attacks from armed groups, particularly in the Tillabéri and Diffa regions. These groups carried out deadly village incursions, including a mosque attack in Fambita (Tillabéri) that killed over 40 civilians. In March, Niger's Government announced its withdrawal from the Multinational Joint Task Force in the Lake Chad Basin.