



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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WFP Niger Country Brief May 2025



May in Numbers

1.4 million+ people assisted in May*

841.7 Metric Tons (MT) of food distributed*

US\$ 1.9 million of cash-based transfers made*

US\$ 69.9 million six-month net funding requirement (July – December 2025)

*Preliminary figures



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 to 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 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**

Strategic Updates

- **WFP Director visit to advance strategic dialogue on national priorities with the Government of Niger:** From 12 to 15 May, WFP's Director of Multilateral and Programme Country Partnerships Mr. Stanlake Samkange, visited Niger to engage with the Government and partners to advance strategic dialogue on food systems and resilience priorities for Niger. [High-level meetings with the Prime Minister](#) and key ministries identified land restoration as a priority for transformational development in Niger. The Government, with support from WFP, will outline a national plan to scale up land restoration to restore 4 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. This national plan would represent an ambitious yet critical scale-up to achieve multisectoral development goals.
- **Funding situation and assistance cuts:** WFP Niger is currently operating in an extremely constrained resourcing environment. From July to December 2025, WFP has a funding shortfall of US\$ 69.9 million, representing 53 percent of the total needs (USD 131 million) required to sustain operations during this period. Due to critical resourcing gaps and a limited outlook for new funds, WFP has implemented prioritization measures, resulting in the suspension of assistance for nearly 900,000 people under crisis response from June 2025 onwards. This includes suspending assistance to most protracted displaced populations at the end of May 2025, through which WFP had been providing monthly cash or in-kind assistance to 600,000 vulnerable individuals, including IDPs, refugees, and host communities.
- **Pastoral lean season response:** WFP launched the pastoral lean season response in April, targeting 43,655 people with 3 months' worth of food assistance. Despite operational challenges, particularly in the Tillabéri region, as of end of May WFP has distributed the first two rations, with the last planned for June.
- **Voucher pilot in Tillabéri:** WFP is preparing to launch an emergency food assistance pilot using electronic vouchers in Tillabéri region, a first time for WFP Niger. The use of vouchers will improve WFP's flexibility and adaptability to respond to different needs, and make it better prepared in case cash or in-kind modalities become unfeasible in the evolving context.
- **Focus on Diffa's ETC Centre:** The ETC Centre in Diffa, Shimodouram, operational since July 2023, continues to provide essential digital services to crisis-affected communities. The centre offers free internet access, phone services, IT training, and smartphone charging stations to promote digital inclusion and resilience. The centre is a key enabler of youth empowerment and access to information in the Diffa region. Since its opening in July 2023, the ETC Services Centre in Diffa, Niger, has served 1,853 users with over 21,000 visits.

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Photo caption: user of the ETC center, @Adamou Sani Dan Salaou

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 (Jul - Dec 25)
297.7 million	69.9 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 May, WFP provided lifesaving assistance to **665,019** beneficiaries through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), targeting newly displaced refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), as well as through continued support to vulnerable displaced populations, host communities and those facing seasonal food insecurity at the peak of the pastoral lean season. In addition, assistance was provided to approximately **3,100** people in Assamaka, which is experiencing increased numbers of returnees from Algeria.
- School Meals:** in May, WFP continued providing daily meals for **300,000** primary school-aged children (of 378,000 planned) across more than **1,600** schools with canteens. The distribution to adolescent girls of quarterly grants linked to school attendance is also ongoing, with 33,809 girls planned to benefit.
- Nutrition:** In May, WFP reached **30,248** (of 50,000 planned) children aged 6–23 months through the moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) supplementation programme.
- Food Assistance for Assets (FFA):** In May, **449,133** people benefited from FFA activities. Ongoing capacity-strengthening activities reached almost 570,000 beneficiaries, including technical support to producers on topics such as seedling production in nurseries, development of market gardening sites, storage, preservation, and processing of horticultural products.
- UNHAS:** In May, UNHAS transported **1,110** passengers and **1.5** metric tons of cargo, representing a **15 percent** increase in passenger numbers compared to the previous month. UNHAS will sustain its second aircraft through to the end of July 2025 due to the increase passenger demand in May 2025. However, without immediate additional funding, this UNHAS may be forced to reduce its fleet from July, therefore limiting humanitarian access to populations in need. Urgent and sustained funding is essential to keep this vital lifeline in the air.

Assessments and Market

- Markets:** In May, food prices remained stable month-on-month, with a slight drop for imported rice (-5 percent). Compared to May 2024, prices declined significantly but remain slightly above the five-year average.
- Assessment:** WFP, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), is actively preparing to conduct a Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) targeting refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host communities. Preparatory work is currently underway, including the development of terms of reference and data collection tools.

Challenges

- Supply Chain challenges:** The deterioration of the security situation in Tillabéri is causing significant supply chain delays along the Burkina Faso corridor. The number and frequency of convoys being organized into Niger has reduced following a series of attacks in mid-May. The Burkina Faso corridor remains the only authorized route for importation into Niger. WFP faces persistent logistical challenges, longer lead times (an average of 70 days), and rising transport costs, impacting timely assistance to vulnerable populations. WFP mitigates supply chain risks through local procurement where possible, but depends on regional and international sources for certain commodities including specialized nutritious foods.
- Access and security:** The security situation in Niger remains highly volatile, with a surge in armed group attacks using drones, IEDs, and complex assaults, resulting in high casualties among security forces, including a series of attacks against military convoys.