



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Niger Country Brief June 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**

June in Numbers

1.2 million+ people assisted*

1,267 Metric Tons (MT) of food distributed*

USD 1.6 million of cash-based transfers made*

USD 69.9 million six-month net funding requirement (Jul - Dec 2025)

**Preliminary figures*

Strategic Updates

- Roll-out of the voucher modality in Tillabéri:** In June, WFP launched the pilot phase of the voucher modality in Tera, Tillabéri region. Over 1,400 vulnerable households received e-vouchers to purchase a nutritious food basket from local retailers. The pilot tested market functionality and community acceptance while strengthening preparedness for scalable, flexible response options. Initial feedback from recipients is very positive, as they consider that vouchers offer wider choice/preference of commodities. The valuable lessons learned from this pilot will inform the scale up phase already launched for nearly 15,000 households targeted in Tillabéri from July, as well as potential expansion to other regions.
- Challenges in targeting due to insecurity:** Persistent access challenges, particularly in areas affected by insecurity, continue to limit WFP's ability to reach all intended beneficiaries with emergency assistance. In Tillabéri region, nearly **72,000 people** could not be reached through targeting activities and risk receiving no support during the peak of the lean season. Additionally, access constraints have delayed food distributions for around 42,520 beneficiaries in the communes of Makalondi and Bankilaré, further compounding the vulnerability of affected populations.
- School Feeding Day in Zinder:** On 25 June, the 10th edition of the African Day of School Feeding was celebrated in Zinder under the patronage of the Minister of National Education, Dr. Elisabeth Sherif. The event, supported by WFP, highlighted Niger's strong commitment to positioning school feeding as a key driver of social and human capital development.
- German delegation visits WFP warehouse in Niamey:** On 19 June, WFP welcomed a high-level German delegation, including the Head of the Sahel Division from BMZ, the KfW Director for West Africa, and the GIZ Director General for West Africa, to its logistics warehouse in Niamey. The visit provided an opportunity to showcase the positive results emerging from WFP's ongoing investments in resilience and food systems in Niger, in line with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. WFP emphasized the critical role of Germany's support, particularly in enabling the implementation of the resilience package.
- Focus on UNHAS:** The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) is a crucial enabler of humanitarian responses in Niger, where insecurity and poor infrastructure hinder overland movements. UNHAS facilitates the safe transport of humanitarian personnel and light cargo to remote and hard-to-reach areas, supporting over 160 partner organizations. The service is vital to the continuity of life-saving operations and humanitarian actors' presence in Niger. [Watch how UNHAS supports humanitarian access in Niger.](#)

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Photo caption: launch of the voucher pilot, @Emanuel Foukou

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	USD 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 June, WFP reached **481,283** beneficiaries with lifesaving assistance including unconditional assistance coupled with malnutrition prevention, through Rapid Response Mechanism intervention to newly displaced people, lean season response to the most food insecure population. Assistance was provided to refugees in Sayam Forage camp, as well as to migrants in Assamaka where populations receive daily hot-meals. The distribution of specialized nutritious food for the supplementation of moderate acute malnutrition in children was also sustained while WFP successfully launched in June the use of vouchers in hard-to-reach areas.
- School Meals:** WFP continued providing daily school meals in June for **299,691** primary school-aged children across more than 1,600 school canteens. Distribution of attendance-based grants to adolescent girls is ongoing, with 35,000 girls anticipated to benefit from these grants.
- Nutrition:** In June WFP reached **32,657** children aged 6–23 months with supplementation of moderate acute malnutrition compared to the initial target of 52,708.
- Asset creation and livelihoods:** In June, **449,133** people benefited from Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities. Ongoing capacity-strengthening interventions reached nearly 556,000 beneficiaries. These included technical support to producers on topics such as nursery seedling production, development of vegetable gardening sites, and post-harvest practices including storage, preservation, and processing of horticultural products.
- UNHAS:** In June, UNHAS transported 1,085 passengers and 0.80 metric tons of cargo. UNHAS will sustain its second aircraft through to the end of July 2025. UNHAS services are currently funded until 6th December 2025

Assessments and Market

- Markets:** As part of the voucher pilot in Tera, market and price analyses were conducted to estimate the cost of the food basket and inform price negotiations. Reference prices were established and served as the basis for discussions with retailers participating in the voucher scheme.
- Assessment:** In collaboration with the Government’s Early Warning System Coordination Cell, WFP conducted a survey to monitor food security in hard-to-reach areas classified in Phase 3 of the *Cadre Harmonisé*. The objective was to track the food security situation during the lean season, monitor its evolution over time, and provide evidence-based inputs to inform projections for the upcoming *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis.

Challenges

- Resource constraints:** WFP Niger is facing a critical funding shortfall, compounded by reduced contributions from key donors. To sustain operations through the end of the year, WFP urgently requires USD 70 million. Looking ahead, funding prospects for 2026 remain uncertain, raising serious concerns for the continuity of both emergency and resilience activities, which require predictable, multi-year funding to deliver sustainable impact. Already 1 million people are no longer receiving assistance. Without additional contributions, WFP will further downsize operations and risks partial suspensions.
- Security challenges:** Rising insecurity, marked by armed group activity and access restrictions, continues to disrupt humanitarian operations across several regions. Despite these constraints, WFP remains operational by adapting delivery modalities and coordinating closely with local actors to maintain assistance to vulnerable populations.