



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Niger Country Brief August 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 2024 Cadre Harmonisé, 2.2 million people were projected face severe food insecurity in 2025 (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

518,000 people assisted in August*

193.9 Metric Tons (MT) of food distributed*

USD 2.3 million of cash-based transfers made*

USD 42 million six-month net funding requirement (Sept 25 - Feb 26)

**Preliminary figures*

Strategic Updates

- **Launch of National Flagship initiatives in collaboration with the UN System in Niger:** On 27 August, the Government of Niger and the UN System launched four Flagship Initiatives, covering food systems, education, youth, and economic governance, with a combined budget of USD 1.8 billion over five years. As the first Central Sahel country to formalize these plans, Niger signals a clear direction for national priorities and investment mobilization. The Food Systems Flagship, led by the Rome-Based Agencies and the Ministry of Agriculture, represents the largest share of the budget. WFP's vision and strategy align with the Flagship, and the organization played a key role in its development and will support implementation and resource mobilization efforts.
- **Niger's participation in the first edition of the AES Humanitarian Forum:** Niger participated in the inaugural Alliance of Sahel States (AES) Humanitarian Forum, held in Bamako from 7-9 August 2025, alongside Mali and Burkina Faso. The Nigerien delegation was led by the Minister of Social Action and included ten members of the Humanitarian Country Team including UN agencies, local and international NGOs. An official communiqué was issued at the end of the summit, reaffirming the commitment of AES member states to strengthen coordination and promote principled action adapted to national contexts. WFP actively participated in the forum, advocating for the need to sustain emergency humanitarian responses for acute needs, while simultaneously scaling up resilience-building programmes to reduce long-term humanitarian dependence.
- **Anticipatory Action response:** Following the River Niger surpassing alert thresholds, WFP activated an Anticipatory Action response on 11 August, in coordination with the Government of Niger. This enabled timely emergency cash assistance to 53,500 vulnerable persons across eight high-risk communes in Tillabéri and Dosso regions. Despite minor delays due to insecurity, implementation remained largely within the AA framework's ten-day window. Complementary flood alerts and awareness messages were disseminated in local languages via local radio.
- **Flood response:** As of 30 August, flooding has affected over 15,800 households across the country, resulting in deaths and loss of livestock. The Government of Niger is leading the national response, convening weekly coordination meetings with humanitarian partners. Emergency assistance is being provided, including the distribution of cereals to affected household.

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Photo caption: Emergency nutrition and food distribution, Diffa, @Adamou DanSalaou

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 (Sep 25 - Feb 26)
297.7 million	USD 42 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, (iii) 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 August, WFP provided life-saving assistance to 334,456 individuals through a range of interventions including RRM, emergency distributions, assistance to refugees in Sayam Camp (Diffa) and to migrant populations in IOM assisted centers in Assamaka. Despite access constraints, WFP completed emergency distributions in all targeted areas in August, except for Tillabéri, where distributions are expected to be finalized by mid-September.
- School Meals:** The Ministries of Education and Health, with support from WFP, validated the Communication Plan for Social and Behaviour Change focusing on girl's education and reproductive health as well as adolescent nutrition education in schools. The workshop convened national and regional actors to align priorities and next steps.
- Nutrition:** In August, WFP reached **64,499** children aged 6–23 months with supplementation for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition. WFP launched an emergency Cash for Prevention programme in Tahoua, supporting over 2,600 individuals to access locally produced fortified infant flour, while promoting nutrition education, malnutrition screening, and support to local production units.
- Rural Development:** In August, WFP provided unconditional assistance to **119,000** food assistance for assets (FFA) beneficiaries in food-insecure areas to avert deterioration in their food security situation during the rainy season when food stocks can be depleted. WFP continues to support capacity strengthening to 556,000 beneficiaries on improved agricultural practices.
- UNHAS:** In August, UNHAS transported 1,011 passengers and 1.06 metric tons of cargo across Niger. Current operations are sustained through to March 2026. Without additional resources, fleet adjustments may be required to avoid service suspension.

Assessments and Market

- Assessment:** Data collection for the regional phase of the SMART survey is underway across 7 regions. In Maradi, a special survey disaggregated by department will also be conducted to provide high-validity data to inform IPC and Cadre Harmonisé analyses.
- The findings from the Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) conducted in July revealed high levels of vulnerability, especially among refugees and IDPs, who face extremely low monthly incomes, limited access to land and resources. The findings are being submitted to the Government for validation.
- Agricultural campaign:** The agropastoral season is progressing steadily across Niger according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Statistics Directorate. Despite early dry spells in August, late-month rainfall supported favourable pastoral conditions, improving livestock health and food security for pastoral households.

Challenges

- Security and Access Constraints:** Access constraints continue to impact operations in Niger. On 30 August, a WFP-contracted truck was attacked near Seytenga, Burkina Faso with no casualties reported. The corridor through Burkina Faso remains volatile, with reduced convoy movements since May. In addition to the insecurity, impassable roads due to heavy rainfall delayed assistance to 49,000 beneficiaries in Tillabéri region.
- Funding shortfall:** From September 2025 to February 2026, WFP Niger faces a USD 42M funding gap, 51% of the USD 83M needed to sustain operations. USD 19M is urgently required for crisis response. Only 3% of the projected USD 200 M for 2026 has been confirmed to date. Without new contributions, lifesaving nutrition interventions will halt in November impacting 125,000 children and emergency food assistance from December. WFP has already cut assistance to 900,000 people.