



WFP Niger Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Strengthening resilience in Niger through an integrated multi-sector and multi-partner safety net approach	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200961: (Jan. 2017 – Dec. 2019)	421 m	50.1 m (12%)	46.3 m (64%)

*February – July 2017

Highlights

- The new Protracted Relief and Recover Operation (PRRO) 200961 “Strengthening resilience in Niger through an integrated multi-sector and multi-partner safety net approach” started. It will focus on two fundamentals pillars: the zero hunger objective and government capacity development.
- At current operational levels of the new resilience project, USD 46 million are urgently needed for the implementation of activities for the next 6 months.
- Due to lack of funding, WFP will not be able to assist 44 percent of planned school canteens.

Providing life-saving support to directly affected by insecurity in northern Nigeria	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Regional EMOP 200777: (Jan. 2015–Dec. 2017)	64.4 m	41 m (64%)	11.9 m (32%)

*February - July 2017

GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200961

WFP supports the Government in implementing a multi-sectoral, integrated community-based approach to building household and community resilience, supporting the same vulnerable people through a flexible combination of unconditional and conditional food assistance over a pluri-annual programme. The approach aims to reduce the impact of seasonal stresses and prevent a peak in acute malnutrition and mortality. The innovative integrated response includes food assistance for asset (through food and cash), nutrition specific and - sensitive activities, school meals and related programmes (such as school gardens and local milling and processing initiatives), local purchases from smallholder farmers, as well as unconditional food assistance during the lean season. This integrated safety net package is geographically concentrated in the most vulnerable areas allowing it to strengthen the core capacities and skills of key institutions and communities and those left behind. A special attention is put on gender.

Activities are implemented in the pre- and post-harvest period to assist rural communities in revitalizing infrastructure, improving agricultural production and diversifying rural incomes. They are linked to the promotion of local production and purchases. The resilience programme relies on a participatory process amongst others through the three-pronged approach (national, subnational and community levels) relying on the seasonal livelihood programming and community-based participatory planning.

Malian refugees will continue to be assisted under the existing PRRO. Unconditional food assistance along with nutritional supplementation for children 6-23 months is provided to Malian refugees in all camps and hosting sites. The PRRO will aim to move towards targeting on the basis of vulnerability and where possible promote the integration of asset creation activities.

The Food Security Cluster has been active since 2010. WFP co-leads the Cluster with FAO and continues coordination activities with the Government and other humanitarian partners.

The Regional Emergency Operation provides flexible assistance through unconditional and conditional food distributions, and nutritional supplementation for children aged 6-23 months as well as emergency school meals. The assistance is provided to an increasing number of refugees in and out of camps, returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host populations affected by the insecurity in northern Nigeria.

Provision of humanitarian air services in Niger	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
SO 200792: (Jan. 2015-Dec. 2017)	24.1 m	16.4 m (68%)

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) provides safe, efficient and effective air transport to UN agencies, NGOs and donors. This enables implementation and oversight of humanitarian activities in areas affected by insecurity and poor road infrastructure.

In 2016, the operational fleet consisted of two 19-seater (Beechcraft 1900) operating out of Niamey with the ability to respond to air travel needs to the field. In 2017, a bigger aircraft was acquired to respond to needs by the humanitarian community. UNHAS remained the only key player in enabling up to 114 organizations to reach at least six destinations in Niger.

In Numbers

2 million people affected

253,000 people displaced (IDPs, refugees, returnees)

1.5 million people in chronic food-insecurity

767,932
People assisted
December 2016



Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Dourfaye Zourkaleini
Caption: Pupil of the Guessé school, where WFP assistance was not carried out due to a lack of resources.



January 2017

Operational Updates

Food delivery in schools canteens of “Communes de Convergence” and PAEQ (Support Projects for Quality Education) are ongoing. Due to lack of resources, WFP will not be able to assist 44 percent of planned school canteens (non-priority municipalities).

A joint WFP and Ministry of Education mission took place in January, aiming at monitoring PAEQ school canteens. These canteens, which are implemented by WFP through an agreement signed with the Ministry, are financed by the World Bank and the French Development Agency within the framework of the global partnership for education. Results of the mission will help improving school canteens.

Asset creation activities began in productive assets creation sites. In January, 241,353 people were reached through these modalities.

During the reporting period, discussions on the 2017 Roadmap took place with the University of Niamey. The objective was to agree on an annual action plan/roadmap for university and WFP trainings and for the active involvement of students on productive assets creation sites.

As a result of the business plan developed under the joint evaluation (WFP-UNICEF-OCHA-UNHCR) on the feasibility of cash-based transfers in emergency situations, an investigative training mission took place in the region of Diffa from 18 to 25 January 2017. Teams are currently on the ground to collect information on the 4 dimensions of the project: (i) partners capacities (ii) cash transfer services providers' capacities (iii) acceptance and protection, and (iv) the functioning of markets. The preliminary results will be available at the end of February 2017.

A working session took place between WFP and the 3N initiative on the new PRRO 200961 and coordination issues. The operationalization of the new PRRO is underway and will put particular focus on the zero hunger objective and capacity strengthening of the Government.

Niger Government is working on the internalization of the 2030 agenda, combining this with the development of its Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy (SDDCI) 2035 and the Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES) for 2017-2021. Beyond the SDG agenda, a strong focus is also put on the Agenda 2063 of the African Union “The Future we want for Africa”. Gender equality and women’s empowerment remain some of the key elements and will be integrated in the PDES in line with the national gender policy.

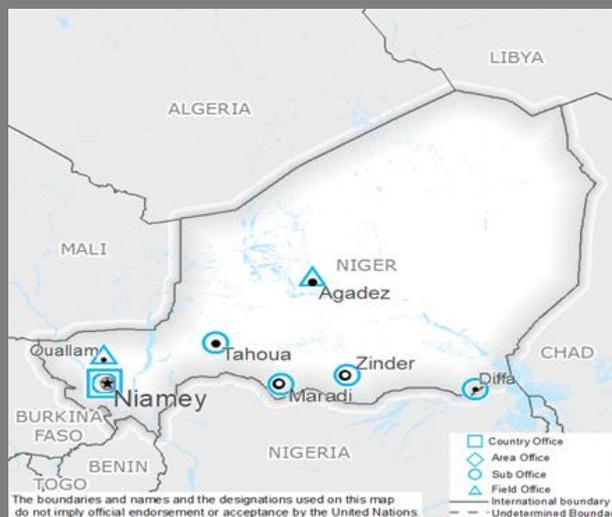
UNHAS continues to provide air transport services to the humanitarian community in all five regions of Niger. In January, UNHAS transported 1,123 passengers and 2,241 mt of cargo.

Challenges

EMOP: The security context remains tensed across the Diffa region after the relative lull observed in December. However, coordination continues with partners: 2,760 mt of food were distributed to 164,069 people in need and cash distributions of USD 112,602 were carried out for to 15,000 people in Diffa and Maine Soroa.

PRRO: WFP’s new PRRO begin in January 2017. Funding will remain a challenge in 2017: contributions to help cover a project funding gap of USD 31.4 million are urgently needed to implement activities over the next 6 months.

Country Background & Strategy



Niger is a landlocked and food-deficit Sahel country. Just over half the population is under the age of 15. Gender disparities persist and continue to strongly challenge the country’s development. With a demographic growth of 3.9 percent, it is one of the highest in the world. Food and nutrition insecurity in Niger remains above WHO alert threshold. This situation stems from poverty, environmental degradation, and cyclical shocks. Repeated droughts, floods, and desertification mark the ecological fragility of the country. This in turn has a significant negative impact on livelihoods as the economy is strongly reliant on climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture. The population is predominantly rural, and 80 percent are in a situation of extreme poverty. Access to markets is limited. The weakness of insurance and other risk mitigation mechanisms impedes the country’s development. Persisting regional volatility and security problems reinforce the fragility.

In light of this situation, the Government has put resilience building and social protection at the core of its development agenda. The national Nigeriens nourish Nigeriens (3N) initiative, the 2014 AGIR National Resilience Priorities document, the National Multi-sectoral Nutrition Security Policy and the 2011 Social Protection Policy are building blocks of the Government’s long-term vision. It highlights the importance of a multi-sectoral integrated approach and the importance of nationally-owned safety nets to ensure long-term solutions to end chronic vulnerability. In 2014, Niger was recognized and received an award by FAO for having met MDG 1 target of reducing hunger within the country. However, food and nutrition insecurity remains one of the major development challenges. Work is ongoing to ensure alignment to the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda. WFP’s intervention is placed within this framework, especially the SDG 2 “Zero Hunger”.

WFP has been in Niger since 1968.

Population: **19 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **188 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower**

Chronic food insecurity: **1.5 million**

Donors

Belgium, Canada, Denmark, ECHO, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Multilateral, Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, UN CERF, United States of America.

Contact info: wfp.niamey@wfp.org

Country Director: Benoit Thiry

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