



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)	420.1 m	117.5 m (28%)	58.9 m

* Jan – June 2018

GENDER MARKER 2A  PRRO 200961

WFP supports the Government in implementing a multi-sectoral, integrated community-based approach to build household, community and system 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 assets (through in-kind 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. Work on climate risk which constitutes an important new feature is now being integrated. 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.

The resilience programme ensures a participatory process amongst others through the three-pronged approach (3PA - national, subnational and community levels) relying on the Integrated Context Analysis (ICA), Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) and Community-based Participatory Planning (CBPP). Capacity development and partnership building are two key components that aim to support a move toward nationally-owned hunger solutions.

Malian refugees are assisted under the existing PRRO with unconditional food assistance along with nutritional supplementation for children aged 6-23 months provided in all camps and hosting sites.

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.

Main Credit: WFP/Michaël Zumstein
Photo Caption: Beneficiaries of cash for assets pose in front of the granary they acquired to store their crops.

Highlights

- Nutrition activities in Niger are suffering from critical funding gaps that risk to have effects not only on the implementation of activities but also on the already worrying levels of global acute malnutrition (GAM above the 10 percent serious threshold).
- Additional support for the Diffa emergency response is needed, due to instable security conditions that may lead to additional displacements and insufficient funding for emergency operations (impact on operations as early as March).
- Trainings on biometric data collection as part of the SCOPE roll-out were carried out in sub-offices for WFP staff and its partners such as Family Farming Development Programme (ProDAF)/IFAD and FAO.

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 2018)	184 m	120.2 m (65%)	5.9 m

* Jan – June 2018

The Regional Emergency Operation provides flexible assistance through unconditional and conditional food and cash 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)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
SO 200792: (Jan 2015-Dec 2018)	32.4 m	24.4 m (75%)	1.1 m

* Jan – June 2018

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 with 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 remains the only key player in enabling up to 114 organizations to reach at least six destinations in Niger.

In Numbers

1.4 m people in food insecurity*

1.7 m people in need of nutrition assistance*

309,700 people displaced (IDPs, refugees, returnees)

671,880 People Assisted
December 2017

*HNO, November 2017

51%



49%



ONE FUTURE
#ZEROHUNGER



December 2017

Operational Updates

Security and humanitarian situation update

In the Diffa region, a volatile security situation persists and increasing tensions may provoke new waves of displacements. Funding levels for emergency operations are insufficient already starting in March and will deteriorate further should needs increase.

Nutrition

WFP, the Nigerien government, the African Union Commission and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) jointly launched the Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) survey on 8 December. The COHA will contribute to a comprehensive study which will examine the effects of child undernutrition on health, education and national productivity in the country. The National Implementation Team, composed of representatives from various government ministries, is responsible for conducting the study in Niger.

Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM)

- From 13 to 15 of December, WFP met with its partner, the International Emergency and Development Aid (IEDA Relief), provided technical support in data processing, data collection and restructuring the format and content of the monthly reports. The IEDA Relief is conducting third party monitoring in areas of the Diffa region that WFP staff cannot access due to security measures. From October to December, IEDA Relief monitored general food distribution, nutrition and school meals activities in the departments of Bosso, Nguigmi and Ngrourti. The mission also evaluated the added value of the activity and recommended to continue third party monitoring in 2018.

- In December, cereal prices were relatively stable in comparison with November. However, prices remain high compared to the same period in 2016 and with the average of the last 5 years. For example, the price of millet in December 2017 was up by 16 percent compared to the price in December 2016 and 6 percent higher than the past 5 year's average. The supply of Nigerian millet on Niger markets remains marginal due to high price levels caused by the lack of commercial incentives for Nigerians to import from their markets.

- From 20 to 23 December a retreat organized by the National Device for Prevention and Management of Food Crises (DNP-GCA) was held in Dosso, to evaluate the food, nutritional and pastoral situation of the country. Besides all levels of the DNP-GCA, representatives of the Presidency, the Prime Minister's Office, the technical ministries, the High Commissioner for the 3N Initiative, the Technical and Financial Partners, NGOs and cultivators' organizations attended the retreat. Overall, 162 sites were defined as extremely and moderately vulnerable compared to 180 sites during the same period in 2016.

Livelihoods

The SCOPE roll out (biometric data registration) at country office level is planned to be completed during the first semester of 2018. Meanwhile, partners began targeting beneficiaries in the municipalities of Chadakori and Dogo in Maradi and Zinder. This is an opportunity for the country office to test biometric data collection in these two regions.

Emergency

The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) workshop took place in Niamey and aimed at to formally integrating WFP, UNICEF and OCHA into the common framework. The common framework definition capitalized on the implementation of experiences of RRM projects and good practices identified by the participants. The main areas retained for this framework are: the pre-positioning of funds, stocks and human resources, early warning systems, Multi-Sectoral Assessments (MSA), and multi-sectoral interventions (Shelter/Non-Food Items, WASH, Food Security and Protection).

Country Background & Strategy



Niger is a land-locked 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 4 percent, it is one of the highest in the world. Food and nutrition insecurity in Niger remains above WHO serious 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: **18 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
187 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower**

Food Insecure: 1.4 million

Donors

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

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