



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	71.3 m (17%)	36.2 m (48%)

*March – August 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 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. 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 aims 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.

Highlights

- A joint WFP/UNHCR sensitization mission took place in Intikane ZAR for the newly relocated Malian refugees from Tazalit ZAR on the implementation of assistance on the basis of needs and capacity.
- Critical funding gap is having extremely negative consequences on planned resilience and hunger season activities. New contributions are urgently needed to avoid losing achievements gained over the past three years.
- Coupled with the effects on school meal activities of severe underfunding, the consequences of the 2017 pastoral crisis is increasing pupil dropout rates, in particular amongst children of nomad communities.

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%)	16.7 m (45%)

*March – August 2017

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)
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 remains 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

732,094
People assisted
February 2016



Main Photo Credit: WFP/Katia Oslansky.
Caption: A Malian woman who arrived in Intikane from Tazalit ZAR (Tahoua region) and who is benefitting from WFP assistance.



February 2017

Operational Updates

- Distributions of commodity vouchers for school meals activities started. This type of assistance helps to create a direct connection between local production, education, nutrition and women empowerment. Food goods were delivered by farmer organizations in four communes (Falwel and Sokordé in the Dosso region, and Djirataoua and Guidan Amoumoune in Maradi) and by WFP providers in all other communes. Awareness raising sessions were carried out alongside distributions.
- Multiple discussions took place between the Ministry of Education, WFP and UNICEF to identify solutions for the increasing drop-out rate of pupils in nomadic areas. Communities of these areas are the most affected by the pastoral crisis developed as a consequence of the fodder deficit during the 2016-17 agro-pastoral campaign.
- The final phase of the joint WFP-Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education mission presented the Adolescent Strategy to national technical services at the regional levels. The Adolescent Strategy, which aims at improving nutrition and education of adolescents of very poor households, will be launched in March in all communes where WFP implements integrated activities.
- WFP contributed to the finalization of the budget/costing plan of the National Multisector Policy on Nutrition Security for 2017. This policy will be finalized and officially launched in March and will involve all government sectors with the aim of eradicating malnutrition in Niger.
- The first Steering Committee meeting of the "Fortification of Processed Food Products in Niger" project took place. The aim is to improve the quality and availability of nutritional food in Niger by promoting the consolidation of local food chains derived from "primary" processing, in particular those resulting from the milling of cereals, legumes and the extraction of seed oil.
- A meeting with the government 3N Initiative reviewed and planned the scale up of community-based participatory planning (CBPP) activities for at least 80 integrated sites in 2017. During the meeting focal points were designated amongst government, partner and UN representatives who will hold the role of trainers for the CBPP sites.
- A boot-camp on asset creation techniques took place during the last week of February involving both WFP staff and national technical services, providing tools to produce high quality assets and strengthen national capacities.
- WFP provided policy advice and technical assistance on the finalization of the Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy 2035, with a special attention on integrating the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 agenda.
- WFP continued its efforts to capitalize on lessons learned by identifying and publishing best practices on Rome-based Agencies integrated approach in Dargué and Maradi.
- UNHAS continues to provide air transport services to the humanitarian community in all five regions of Niger. In February, UNHAS transported 1,370 passengers and 2,218 mt of cargo.

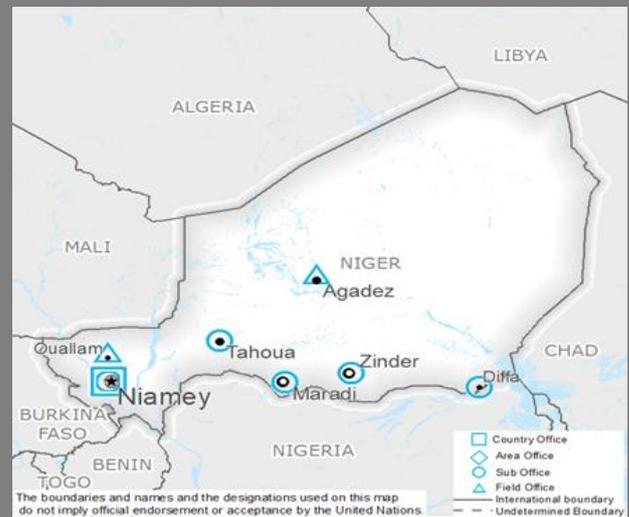
Challenges

EMOP: The security context remains tensed across the Diffa region. However, coordination continues with partners: 2,764 mt of food were distributed to an estimated 185,000 people in need.

PRRO: Critical shortfalls continue to negatively impact activity implementation. WFP was forced to review its operational planning and targeting due to lack of available funds. Possible late arrivals of in-kind commodities and a funding gap of USD 64.5 million on the yearly project budget need to be urgently addressed.

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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.

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