



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Niger

## Country Brief

### December 2020



### Operational Context

Niger is a land-locked and food-deficit Sahelian country with a population of over 24.2 million and an annual demographic growth of 3.9 percent, the highest in Africa. While the latest food security analysis (March 2020 Cadre Harmonisé) projected 2 million people to be food insecure during the upcoming lean season (Jun-Aug 2020), a joint analysis in April 2020 estimated that the food security and livelihoods of 5.6 million people could be affected by the impact of COVID-19 during June-August 2020, nearly doubling from the pre-COVID-19 baseline.

Food and nutrition insecurity are driven by poverty, environmental degradation, and recurring shocks. In addition, the deteriorating security situation on the border with Mali, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria is causing large population displacements coupled with socioeconomic deteriorations.

WFP's emergency response assists refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities in Diffa, Tillabéri, Tahoua, and Maradi regions. In areas of chronic food insecurity, WFP supports resilience with an integrated package of assistance in cooperation with the Government.

The first case of COVID-19 in Niger was declared on 19 March 2020. As of 31 December 2020, Niger had 3,208 confirmed cases of infections, 1,767 people recovered and 102 deaths. WFP response has prioritized lifesaving assistance, while adjusting resilience activities and interventions to comply with all COVID-19 preventive requirements. This includes integrating protection and WASH measures to mitigate health risks, implementing operational and programmatic changes to activities and distributions, and adapting transfer modalities.

WFP has been present in Niger since 1968.



Income Level: **Low**

2019 Human Development Index:  
**189 out of 189**

Acute malnutrition: **10.7% of children between 6-59 months**

Chronic malnutrition: **45.7% of children between 6-59 months**

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Photo: Credit: WFP/Abdoulaye Sarr

Caption: Landscaping and nursery work on community garden in Satara, Tillabéri region

## In Numbers

**1,40 mt** of food assistance distributed\*

**USD 1,2 m** of cash-based transfers made\*

**USD 83 m** six months (January – June 2021) net funding requirements

**901 337 people\*** assisted

in November 2020

\*November figures are reflected here as December figures are not yet available



### Strategic Updates

- **The extension of the WFP L3 Emergency** for Central Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) has been approved for an additional six months, until 30 June 2021.
- From 9 to 10 December, a **joint UNICEF/WFP workshop** was organized in Senegal on the implementation of the UNICEF/WFP concept note to strengthen the collaboration at country level in different areas, namely nutrition, school feeding, and resilience. The objective of the workshop was to take stock of the implementation of the joint programme, identifying successes and challenges and to generate orientations and recommendations to inform the development of the partnership in 2021.

### Operational Updates

- In view of rising COVID-19 cases in Niger, the United Nations country team (UNCT) in Niger has reinstated teleworking modality to minimize the spread of COVID-19 among UN staff. As such, all WFP Niger staff have been instructed to work from home from 14 December for an initial one-month period, except for a few staff who can only fulfil their duties from the office (location-dependent).
- In response to an increase in reported COVID-19 cases, the Government ordered the **closing of schools in Niger** from 17 December to 4 January 2021. WFP in Niger is organizing school feeding activities in 922 schools targeting 155,000 beneficiaries, including cash grants for adolescent girls and direct cash transfers in some of the schools. A second training of trainers' session for the School Connect project (a digital platform to access information related to school meals activities in real time) was held on 30 December.
- **Community-based nutrition activities** (such as cooking demonstrations and sensitization sessions at the Nutritional Rehabilitation Center) that were suspended since April due to COVID-19 restrictions, resumed progressively in small groups.
- **The recent attack** by a non-state armed group in Diffa (on 12 December) has caused the internal displacement of more than 1,500 households (approximately 11,000 people) in the region. Through the Rapid Response Mechanism, WFP prepared three months of food assistance for the affected and host populations and nutrition prevention activities for children aged 6-23 months. All the 1,500 households targeted were reached.
- **WFP has reached over 240,000 flood-affected people** through food and cash distributions in Diffa, Tahoua, Zinder, Maradi, Agadez and Tillabéri regions as part of the first round of planned distributions and the second round of the distribution is almost completed as well.

## Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>265.4 m</b>	<b>259.7 m</b>	<b>83.0 m*</b>

### 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 an 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 on 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, decentralised 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

- 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.

- WFP and partners are supporting the scale-up of the national **Adaptive Social Protection (ASP)** programme in response to the economic impact of COVID-19. In collaboration with the World Bank and UNICEF, as of 21 December, WFP has assisted more than 61,000 households (approximately 430,000 beneficiaries) in 29 municipalities in the regions of Dosso, Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéry, and Zinder.
- In terms of seasonality, this is the most favourable period to **source locally produced millet and beans** (Niebe). WFP is mobilizing additional resources that would enable the sourcing of additional commodities.

## Assessments and Monitoring

- Following the results of the November 2020 Cadre Harmonisé (CH), which estimated 1.2 million people to be food insecure during the current period (October-December 2020) and 1.7 million over the next lean season (June-September 2021). The **Food Security Cluster (FSC) has revised the number of persons in need at 2 million**, of which 1.3 million persons are being prioritized. These figures have been used for the finalization of the **Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2021**. WFP and partners are concerned by the possible underestimation by the CH analysis of the impact of COVID-19, insecurity and high market prices, and expects figures related to food insecurity during the lean season to be higher in the March 2021 Cadre Harmonisé.

## United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- **UNHAS** in Niger transported 856 passengers and 2,411 kg cargo during the month of December 2020. There was a decrease in the number of passengers due to the upsurge of COVID-19 cases in Niger, with a decrease in field missions.

## Challenges

- The **continued impact of access** constraints is being felt across all operations since the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a Note Verbale on 02 September restricting all diplomatic and international organizations' travel outside of all main city limits unless accompanied by a military escort. Although WFP operations are not suspended, this measure is still preventing WFP from accessing its project sites and from ensuring adequate coordination and supervision of ongoing activities. WFP has made additional operational adjustments through remote monitoring, expanding third-party partners to cover additional activities and regions and using the Government's technical services to continue delivering assistance. WFP's operational capacity risks being negatively affected if the ban is further prolonged.
- **Political and legislative elections** in Niger have been underway from 27 December. Tens of Government officials and 17 Ministers resigned from their duties to take part in the electoral campaign. As a result, many Ministries are currently covered by their interim, and dialogue with institutions regarding the access issue might be further delayed.

## Donors

Donors to WFP Niger in 2020 include Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and USA. Additional support has been provided by UN CERF, UNAIDS and UNICEF.