



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Niger Country Brief July 2019



Operational Context

Niger is a land-locked and food-deficit Sahelian country with a population of over 21 million people and an annual demographic growth of 3.9 percent, the highest in Africa.

The latest national survey (*Cadre Harmonisé, March 2019*) estimated that 0.74 million people were food insecure in the beginning of 2019 with an estimated up to 1.17 million affected during the lean season. Acute malnutrition rates of children remained at 14 percent. (*National Nutrition Survey, April 2019*).

Food and nutrition insecurity are driven by poverty, demographic growth, environmental degradation and cyclical shocks. In addition, a deteriorating security situation in the border area to Mali and Burkina Faso as well as in the Lake Chad region lead to continuing population displacements.

The Government of Niger has put resilience building and social protection at the core of its development agenda, highlighting the importance of a multi-sectoral integrated approach, spearheaded by the national Nigeriens nourish Nigeriens initiative (I3N).

WFP has been present in Niger since 1968.



Population: **22 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **189 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **47.8% of children between 6-59 months**

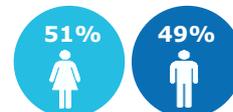
In Numbers

8,032 mt of food assistance distributed in June

US\$ 1.27 m cash-based transfers in June

US\$ 43.5 m six months (August 2019-January 2020) net funding requirements

1.07 m people assisted from January to June



Strategic Updates

- WFP continues to prepare for a worsening humanitarian situation in areas bordering Nigeria, Mali and Burkina Faso. Scenarios on the evolution of the need for food assistance under the assumption of a deteriorating security context were developed for the post-lean season period (Sep-Dec 2019) as well as for 2020.
- Rainfall levels were registered at average at the end of July with normal crop growth observed in most parts of the country. However, some areas within Dosso, Maradi, Tillabéry and Tahoua region have, experienced dry periods and need to be monitored.
- WFP exceptionally continued its local market purchases during the lean season considering the fact that market conditions for cereals and pulses remained favourable, which is very unusual during this time of the year. The price for millet, for instance, was one fifth below the five-year average in June. WFP is purchasing 3,800 mt of cereals and 1,200 mt of pulses from local traders, in addition to 3,500 mt of cereals purchased earlier this year. Moreover, 2,800 mt of cereals and 1,600 mt of pulses have been acquired from smallholder farmers in 2019.
- WFP increased the number of its staff dedicated to the food security cluster to reinforce coordination capacities in emergency settings.

Operational Updates

Crisis Response

- In the Maradi region, Nigerians continue to cross the border and this month, non-state armed groups possibly from Nigeria carried out attacks in the areas that received refugees, possibly triggering secondary and internal displacements. WFP provided food assistance to all registered refugees (some 22,000) in July and is planning to assist up to 40,000 refugees in August.

Contact info: niger.information@wfp.org

Country Director: Sory Ouane

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

Credit: WFP/Aissa Manga

Caption: Training in good agricultural practices for FFA participants

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) *
199 m	130 m	43.5 m

*August – January (in 2020 WFP Niger will implement a CSP)

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome #1: Crisis-affected populations, including refugees and IDPs, in targeted areas are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises.
Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide assistance to crisis-affected populations, including refugees and IDPs, through food assistance, emergency school meals and specialized nutritious food to children for malnutrition prevention.

Strategic Outcome #2: Food insecure school-age children, in targeted regions have access to adequate and nutritious food all year-round.
Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide school meals to vulnerable children during the school year, in a way that relies on and stimulates local production

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome #3: Vulnerable groups including children, pregnant women and adolescent girls in targeted areas have enhanced nutritional status all year-round.
Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide malnutrition treatment and prevention services to children aged 6-23 months and pregnant women, and cash grants to adolescent girls.

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome #4: Food insecure populations and communities exposed to climate shocks in targeted areas have more resilient livelihoods and sustainable food systems all year-round
Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide livelihood support to food insecure and at-risk people, including the development or rehabilitation of assets, climate risk management measures, local purchases, through a community-based approach.
- Provide seasonal food assistance to food insecure population.

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities

Strategic Outcome #5: National institutions have strengthened capacities to manage food-security, nutrition, and social protection policies and programmes by 2030.
Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide capacity strengthening to inter-sectorial national institutions on: (i) planning, (ii) coordination mechanisms, (iii) policy coherence, and (iv) knowledge management.

Strategic Result 8: Global partnership

Strategic Outcome #6: Humanitarian and development partners have access to common services to access and operate in targeted areas throughout the year
Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide UNHAS flight services to partners, to access areas of humanitarian interventions.
- Provide logistics services to partners, to address problems of accessibility.

- In July, WFP continued unconditional lean season assistance in conflict-affected areas in Diffa, Tillabéry and Tahoua regions. In the latter, local authorities have issued access restrictions for humanitarians to internally displaced persons (IDP) and camps located near the Malian border meaning that over 14,000 beneficiaries could not be reached this month.
- Following markets analysis and cash feasibility studies results, WFP is progressively introducing cash-based transfer to the beneficiaries in the Nigerian refugee camp of Sayam Forage instead of in-kind food distribution. In August, refugees will receive a mix of cash and cereals but starting from September only cash will be distributed. Sensitization sessions are ongoing for camp residents to ensure that they understand the implications of this change.

Integrated Resilience-Building Package

- WFP is working on reinforcing partnerships with NGOs (World Vision, FFP-funded RISE II partners) and UN Agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA, RBA) to strengthen synergies and complementarity between different resilience-building activities.
- **Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)** – Since the beginning of the year, achievements of conditional assistance include the sowing of 16,400 hectares of agricultural land to produce cereals and pulses, the planting of trees to create 5,300 hectares of silvopastures as well as stocking fish in 44 ponds. WFP also finalized the construction of five weirs in the Tahoua, Maradi and Zinder regions. The weirs enable irrigation of 500 hectares of land.
- **School Feeding** – WFP participated to a side event on school feeding during the summit of the African Union in Niamey. WFP’s Country Director met with the Prime Minister of Niger to discuss school canteens’ contribution to primary education.
- **Nutrition** – preparations to undertake nutrition assessments during the lean season are underway. Surveyors were trained ahead of data collection which is expected to begin in mid-August. Results will feed into the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) analysis.

Humanitarian – Development Nexus

- The Food Security Working Group in Diffa identified six pilot sites to implement common activities in line with the Government’s recently adopted humanitarian-development nexus roadmap. WFP initiated a series of meetings with regional heads of agencies to work on a common multi-sectorial vision on its implementation in the identified sites.

Donors

Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Monaco, Multilateral, Niger, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, UN CERF, UNDP, United States of America.