



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Niger Country Brief September 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 food security analysis survey (*Cadre Harmonisé*, March 2019), estimated that 1.17 million people were food insecure during the lean season. The prevalence of acute malnutrition in children stands at 14 percent. (National Nutrition Survey, April 2019).

Food and nutrition insecurity are driven by poverty, demographic growth, environmental degradation, and recurring shocks. In addition, the deteriorating security situation on the border with Mali, Burkina Faso and in the Lake Chad region leads to population displacements.

WFP Niger is engaged in emergency response interventions assisting refugees, displaced and host communities in Diffa, Tillabery, North Tahoua, and Maradi. In areas that have been recurrently affected by food insecurity, WFP is working closely with the Nigeriens Nourishing Nigeriens (I3N) Initiative and Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Health and Education to scale up the resilience integrated package.

WFP has been present in Niger since 1968.



Population: **22 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **189 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

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

## In Numbers

**4,094 mt** of food assistance distributed in August

**US\$ 1.27 m** cash-based transfers in August

**US\$ 48.4 m** six months (Oct 2019 - March 2020) net funding requirements

**1.401 m people assisted** from January to August



## Strategic Updates

- On 9 September 2019, WFP, acknowledging the deteriorating security situation, activated a Level 3 emergency response in Central Sahel - Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger – preliminarily until March 2020. The L3 aims to prepare for growing humanitarian needs and to safeguard resilience gains.
- Dr. Marthé Mamadou, Minister of Primary Education, received Sory Ouane, WFP Niger Country Director to discuss school canteens for the 2019/2020 school year. The exchange focused on resource mobilization and harmonization of school feeding programmes across the country as WFP will assist the Government in formulating a national school feeding policy.

## Operational Updates

### Crisis Response

- In Tillabery, due to the tense security situation, UN agencies and international NGOs have limited access to areas close to the Malian border (Ouallam, Banibangou and Abala districts) and to the Burkinabé border (Torodi district). As a result, WFP cannot have direct access to 12,500 Malian refugees and 7,800 IDPs but continues to assist them through local partners (APIS, APBE and Karkara) who are still receiving authorisation to access the areas.
- In Maradi, the Nigerian refugee crisis is evolving quickly. In September, WFP plans to reach all 41,800 refugees registered by UNHCR by the end of the month. The assistance is foreseen to continue into 2020. WFP contributed with its inputs to a press conference given by UNCHR on 27 September in Geneva to raise international attention on the situation.
- In Diffa, in Sayam Forage refugee camp, all refugees were assisted through cash transfers for the first time. The change of modality was preceded by sensitization for beneficiaries.

### Food Security Cluster

- In preparation of the 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview and the Humanitarian Response Plan, the WFP-FAO co-led Food Security cluster submitted a sector analysis of the five main crises affecting Niger (food insecurity, displacement, malnutrition, floods, epidemics) to OCHA.
- The Food Security cluster and the food security working group in Maradi drafted a food security response plan for the Maradi refugee crisis. It was submitted to UNHCR on 19 September.
- Discussions are continuing regarding the anchorage of the Food Security cluster and its direction.

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Credit: WFP/Communication

Caption: Community-based Participatory Planning, Maradi region

## Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) * |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>199 m</b>               | <b>134 m</b>                     | <b>48.4 m</b>                                 |

\*Oct 2019– March 2020 (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.

## Integrated Resilience-Building Package

- WFP Niger received the visit of the steering committee of a Rome-based Agencies (RBA) (FAO, WFP and IFAD) resilience-building initiative funded by Canada, implemented also in DRC and Somalia. The committee carried out a three-day field visit to assess the projects' progress in Maradi and Zinder. The recommendations focused on strengthening collaboration, developing a joint exit strategy and ensuring local ownership. WFP is collaborating with FAO and IFAD beyond this project to strengthen the RBA collaboration.
- WFP assisted the Government with flood damage mitigation, by providing regular risk updates. WFP's cooperating partner "Cloud to Street Public Benefit Corporation", provides weekly bulletins with high-resolution satellite images and rainfall forecasts to assess and forecast the extent of flooding. According to the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Civil Protection, more than 211,000 people in Niger were affected by flooding during the rainy season in 2019. It is estimated that 57 citizens lost their lives, 13,300 houses and 4,700 ha of cropland were destroyed. Two thirds of those affected in 2019 reside in Maradi, Zinder and Agadez regions.
- WFP assisted 9,700 adolescent school girls between January and September with scholarships. The girls receive cash assistance conditional on their school attendance and performance. Based on the link between education, maternal health and malnutrition in children, the adolescent project tackles malnutrition through a multisectoral nutrition and gender-sensitive approach while also contributing to lifting barriers to education for girls. WFP is currently preparing for the school year 2019/2020 as deliveries will start the first quarter of the school year.

## Monitoring

- Results from the new mobile VAM system, based on information from early warning and emergency response systems (SCAP – RU) show that 32 percent and 46 percent of the 59 monitored hard-to-reach villages in Agadez, Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabery, were respectively "in crisis" or "in emergency", following the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and Cadre Harmonisé.
- Price monitoring confirms unusual low prices for the main staples throughout the agricultural lean season. In September, millet, sorghum and maize prices continued to be down by 17 percent, 20 percent and 15 percent, respectively, compared to the same month in the previous year. WFP is currently assessing how the closure of the Nigerian border to trade, in place since mid-August, may affect food markets and food security in Niger.

## Food Security & Nutrition assessments

- Data collection for the national nutrition survey based on the SMART methodology with retrospective mortality has been completed across the country. Data clearing, processing and analysis is on-going and preliminary results will be available by mid-October.
- As part of WFP's multi-sectoral approach to nutrition and its nutrition-sensitive activities, the second data collection for phase 2 of the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) study was conducted in August in 22 markets in Maradi and Zinder by Agricultural Markets Information System in Niger (SIMA) under coordination of 3N and supervision of WFP. The data analysis is on-going to identify key barriers for households and individuals to nutritious food and support decision-making.

## Donors

Canada, European Union, Germany, Luxembourg, Niger, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, UN Central Emergency Response Fund, United States of America.