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## Overview

Since August 2020, the Niger has been facing the worst floods in its history, affecting over half a million people in one season. Heavy rainfall, coupled with rising water levels in the major river basins have led to severe flooding across the country, and in particular in certain departments of Agadez, Dosso, Maradi, Tahoua and Tillabéri. Currently, while water withdrawal has started, a large proportion of land remains flooded and further floods may occur.

This has exacerbated the humanitarian situation in the country mainly linked to population displacements in conflict-affected areas, such as the Lake Chad Basin and the Liptako-Gourma region, as a result of violence perpetrated by armed groups, and the effects of climate change as well as of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Constraints to economic activities and loss of income due to the pandemic, compounded by insecurity, will make it harder to address the impact of severe flooding in a country severely impacted by poverty.

In April 2020, the Niger's National Food Crisis Prevention and Management System indicated that 2.7 million people were facing acute food insecurity at crisis or worse levels (June–August 2020), of whom 2.4 million in rural areas, taking into account the effects of COVID-19. The food security situation has further worsened due to the floods, given the widespread damage to agricultural land and flood protection infrastructure, disrupting agricultural production, limiting access to market and leading to food price fluctuations. The heavy rainfall caused the significant loss of hydro-agricultural infrastructure and equipment, livestock, fishing equipment and crops (cowpea, millet, rice and sorghum), especially of rainfed production near the Niger River.

In this context, the Government of the Niger has developed an Integrated Response Plan for the 2020 floods, including a large component on agricultural recovery. The Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations' (FAO's) response is in line with the Government's Plan.

# The Niger

## 2020 floods

### Urgent call for assistance



to assist  
**35 000 people**

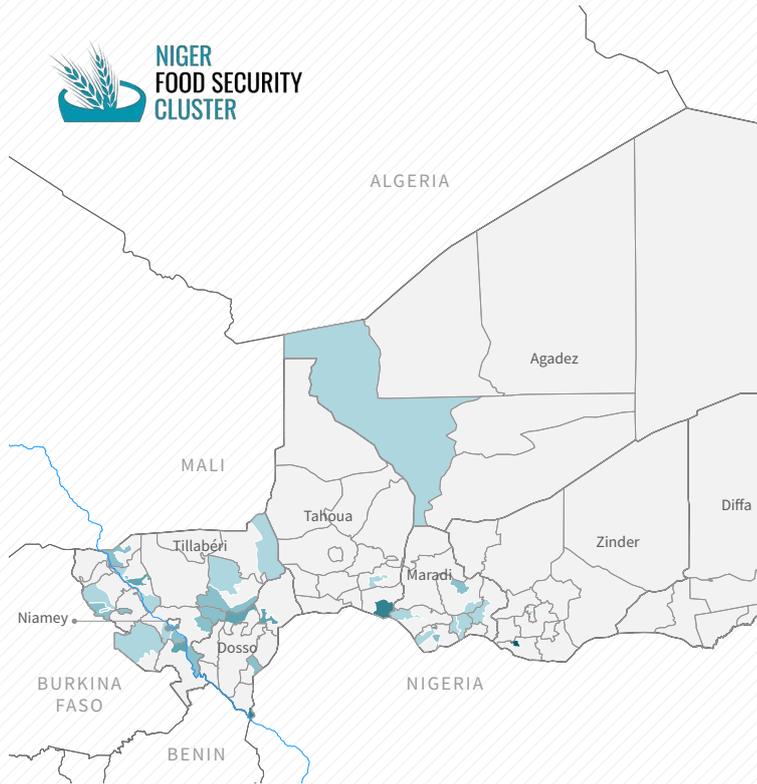


FAO requires  
**USD 9 million**



period  
**October 2020–June 2021**

## Damaged cropland in the country (21 September 2020)



Damaged cropland per municipality (ha)



Source: Niger Food Security Cluster, September 2020. Conforms to UN Niger map, January 2018.

### Objective

To strengthen the resilience of agricultural livelihoods, protecting households' productive assets from being washed away or damaged by flooding. This will contribute to rapid recovery and reduce distress migration, while avoiding the adoption of negative coping mechanisms.

### Beneficiaries

Beneficiary households will be identified from an assessment according to community targeting based on the household economy approach in municipalities and villages with severe livestock and crop production damage. The criteria for targeting beneficiaries will include household size, number of children under five, livelihoods, and food security and nutrition situation. Particular attention will be given to female-headed households or with disabled people (at least 25 percent).

## Situation analysis

(14 September 2020, Ministry of Humanitarian Action)



**69** deaths and **516 251** affected people



**116** municipalities affected in the country's **8** regions



**15 146** small ruminants and **3 688** cattle lost



**+28 010 ha** of cropland affected, including **3 000 ha** of damaged hydro-agricultural land, vegetable gardens and rice fields (23 September 2020, Ministry of Agriculture)



**1 003** grain warehouses collapsed and **2 612** wells damaged



**22 641 tons** of rice lost



**372** fishers' groups affected in the region of Niamey alone and significant fishing equipment lost or destroyed





## Planned activities



### Emergency agricultural support

- Provide agricultural inputs (short-cycle crop seeds, fertilizers and tools) for off season crop production once water withdraws and seeds for rainfed crop production.
- Provide emergency micro-gardening kits for homestead food production.
- Implement cash+ activities to provide households with immediate income along with agricultural inputs to resume production.



### Livestock and fish production support

- Provide livestock production assistance including restocking (goats), feed, vaccinations and treatment for goats and cattle.
- Provide cash transfers along with fish-farming kits (cash+).



### Rehabilitate rural productive infrastructures

- Restore grain warehouses.
- Rehabilitate hydro-agricultural development (equipment and infrastructures) and dikes, as well as vegetable garden perimeters.
- Implement cash for work to rehabilitate/construct anti-erosion barriers.
- Awareness raising on disaster risk management.



### Assessments

- Evaluate the damage and loss and impact on households' food security.

Strengthening the resilience of agricultural livelihoods is key to reducing the impact of disasters on vulnerable communities.

## Ongoing response

FAO immediately mobilized internal funds (USD 40 000) through the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities - Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity (SFERA-AIRC) to evaluate the damage and loss to the agriculture sector and rural livelihoods, and identify the most affected households. Additional SFERA-AIRC funds were mobilized (USD 500 000) allowing FAO to currently support the agricultural livelihoods of 18 450 households in five of the most severely affected regions – Agadez, Dosso, Niamey, Tahoua and Tillabéri – through the following activities:

- social protection through cash+ activities to 400 beneficiaries, of whom 50 percent women;
- distribution of seeds to resume irrigated and rainfed production;
- livestock restocking (goats) prioritizing women and girls;
- rehabilitation of irrigation systems and training on agro-climatic disaster risk management; and
- provision of animal feed and health treatments.

All activities are carried out in strict compliance with barrier measures against COVID-19 (mask wearing, physical distancing and provision of hand washing kits).



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