WFP Niger Country Brief

**WFP Assistance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengthening resilience in Niger through an integrated multi-sector and multi-partner safety net approach</th>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Total Received (in USD)</th>
<th>6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRRO 200961: (Jan. 2017 – Dec. 2019)</td>
<td>421 m</td>
<td>77.6 m (18%)</td>
<td>20.8 m (32%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* July – December 2017

**GENDER MARKER PRRO 200961**

WFP supports the Government in implementing a multi-sectoral, integrated community-based approach to build household, community and system 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. Work on climate risk which constitutes an important new feature is now being integrated. 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 ensures a participatory process amongst others through the three-pronged approach (3PA - national, subnational and community levels) relying on the seasonal livelihood programming and community-based participatory planning (CBPP).

Capacity development and partnership building are two key components that aim to support a move toward nationally-owned hunger solutions.

Malian refugees are assisted under the existing PRRO with unconditional food assistance along with nutritional supplementation for children aged 6-23 months provided in all camps and hosting sites. The Food Security Cluster has been active since 2010. WFP co-

### Highlights

- In Niger, new estimations indicate that there are 1.8 million people in need of food assistance, an increase of some 650,000 people.
- Lean season assistance started during the reporting period, targeting some 250,000 people.
- The number of food insecure people in the Diffa region is estimated to be 408,000, an increase of 25 percent since last years’ Cadre Harmonisé results.

leads the cluster with FAO and continues coordination activities with the Government and other humanitarian partners.

### Providing life-saving support to directly affected by insecurity in northern Nigeria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Total Received (in USD)</th>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Regional EMOP 200777: (Jan. 2015–Dec. 2017)</td>
<td>64.4 m</td>
<td>41 m (64%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* July – December 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

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<thead>
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<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>SG 200792: (Jan. 2015–Dec. 2017)</td>
<td>24.1 m</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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 with 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 m** people affected
- **242,500** people displaced (IDPs, refugees, returnees)
- **1.8 m** people in food-insecurity
- **1,950,594** People assisted

**People assisted In 2016**

- **51%**
- **49%**

**Credit:** WFP Simon Pierre Diouf.

**Caption:** Children in Diffa region affected by the Lake Chad Basin Crisis.
Operational Updates

- The national agro pastoral campaign in Niger is currently marked by an improvement in seed coverage (78 percent of villages covered compared to 68 percent in 2016). However, this situation masks extended disparities between the different regions of the country. In the Diffa region, to date, only 15 percent (133 agricultural villages) of the 606 villages of the region have planted (Source: Bulletin of the Directorate of Agricultural Statistics, June 2017).

- WFPs lean season response started throughout the country, targeting some 250,000 people with food and cash distributions and 20,000 children 6-23 months with nutritious supplements for the prevention of malnutrition.

- Between 5 and 12 June, data of a qualitative and quantitative survey collected in the departments of Ngoumi and Ngourti in April 2017 were analyzed. The final report that is expected to be available in July will allow a better understanding the food and nutritional situation in those departments, where the overall acute malnutrition rate exceeded the World Health Organization’s critical threshold (17.3 percent for N’Gourti and 14.6 percent for N’Guigmi).

- WFP is supporting the Niger government to roll out a Cost of Hunger analysis in Niger. This study will reinforce the sensitization of African governments on the fact that child malnutrition is not only a health and social problem, but also an economic one. It will estimate the social and economic impact of child under-nutrition by quantifying the costs of three sectors: health, education and productivity. The study will then provide estimates of what could be achieved in each context if stunting were to be radically reduced on the basis of various scenarios.

- Along with the Ministry of Education, WFP Niger participated in the third technical consultation on school feeding organized by the African Union in Nairobi from 29 May to 3 June. The aim of the consultation was to share experiences on the group and present the first results of the study carried out with the African Union on the impact of school meals on education and social development.

- A preparatory mission to the Diffa region took place to assess food insecurity in schools of emergency-affected areas, in particular primary schools.

- In June, UNHAS transported 1,510 passengers and 2,485 mt of cargo and carried out 1 medical evacuation.

Challenges

EMOP: After a period of calm, tension has been building up across the Diffa region. This volatility is due to military actions in the Lake Chad basin and attacks attributed to the Boko Haram militants, including a suicide attack carried out in the Kablèwa displacement camp. Despite these challenges, coordination and response continued. WFP is coordinating with the government and other humanitarian partners to put in place necessary measures.

PRRO: Increasing insecurity along the Mali/Burkina Faso border and the food price increase are generating an increase of people in need. An additional 650,000 people are estimated to be in food insecurity. Critical shortfalls also continue to negatively affect WFP activity implementation particularly school meals, lean season and nutrition activities. A funding gap of USD 21 million on the yearly project budget needs to be urgently addressed.

Niger is a land-locked 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 serious 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.