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

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.

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
723,538 People assisted in August 2017

WFP Niger
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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>420.6 m</td>
<td>80.1 m (19%)</td>
<td>15.1 m (39%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* September 2017 – February 2018</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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>Regional EMOP 200777 (Jan 2015 – Dec 2017)</td>
<td>143 m</td>
<td>105.5 m (74%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* September 2017 – February 2018</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Providing of humanitarian air services in Niger

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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>SO 200792: (Jan 2015-Dec 2017)</td>
<td>24.2 m</td>
<td>22.2 m (92%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* September 2017 – February 2018</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highlights

- Launch of the Nutrition and Food Security Assessments (JANSFA): The assessment covers 3,360 households of refugees, internally displaced persons and host population randomly selected from 168 villages throughout the Diffa region.
- Organization of the Parliamentary Day on School Feeding as Development Vector, organized by the Parliamentary Network for Education in partnership with WFP.
- A total of 723,538 people received assistance from WFP in August.

WFP Niger
Country Brief

**Gender Marker: PRRO 200961**

Credit: WFP/Dourfaye Zouloukallyni.

Caption: Toufoure village daily life, Tahoua Region.
Operational Updates

Food Security Analysis

- Launch of the Nutrition and Food Security Assessments (JANSFA) in partnership with the National Statistics Institute, the Early Warning System and humanitarian NGOs present in Diffa. The assessment covers 3,360 households of refugees, internally displaced persons and host population randomly selected from 168 villages throughout Diffa region. Data collection is scheduled for 15 days using SMART phones. Fifteen (15) teams of five people are involved in this exercise. Training, coaching and data analysis are supported by the VAM expertise at the country office level. Preliminary results are expected by mid-September.

- An IFPRI Seminar organized by WFP on the governance of regional supplies was held on 23 August in Niamey. Senior government officials from main ministries were in attendance (OPVNI, Ministries of Agriculture, Trade, 3N Initiative, DNPGCA) together with main donors (USAID, EU) and UN agencies (World Bank, FAO, UNDP).

- A mission was held in the Diffa region from 14 to 25 August to train the M&E team and Protection Focal Point on protection concepts and the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system. The objective of IVR system is to share information with communities and to collect their observations and complaints. Through this system, a toll-free number will be made available to assisted communities. Initially, this new system will be piloted in Boudouri site for a period of three months. During this mission the IVR system was tested at the Boudouri site to validate the recording script and collect feedback on how to use the system.

- From 29 to 31 August, the M&E team members participated in a workshop in Kigali (Rwanda) to assess the progress of mVAM activities and to identify challenges and solutions for project implementation, including the IVR system.

School Feeding

- Organization of the Parliamentary Day on School Feeding as Development Vector: the event was organized by the Parliamentary Network for Education in partnership with WFP. The aim was to advocate the importance of schooling for the promotion of education, nutrition and the national economy.

Nutrition

- On 30 August, WFP, in collaboration with the High Commissioner for 3N (Nigerien Nourish Nigeriens) presented the tool “Fill the Nutrition Gap” to the Ministry of Rural Development among various actors. The tool was then shared with focal points of the Cost of Diet study.

Rural Development

- Launch of a technical group together with the Government, UN agencies and NGO partners for the definition of a basket of minimum expenses. The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) is a tool to identify households in a target population who cannot meet their basic needs. It helps responding to food needs through specific cash-based transfers.

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.

Population: 19 million
2015 Human Development Index: 188 out of 188
Income Level: Lower
Food insecure: 1.8 million

Donors

Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, ECHO, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Multilateral, Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, UN CERF, United States of America.

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