



# WFP Niger Country Brief

## WFP Assistance

Strengthening resilience in Niger through an integrated multi-sector and multi-partner safety net approach	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200961 (Jan 2017 – Dec 2019)	420.6 m	92 m (22%)	56.4 m

\*December 2017 – May 2018

GENDER MARKER **2A** 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.

The resilience programme ensures a participatory process amongst others through the three-pronged approach (3PA - national, subnational and community levels) relying on the Integrated Context Analysis (ICA, Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) 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.

**Main Photo** Credit: Tiphaine Walton  
Caption: Children tend to school gardens in Balleyara, Niamey

## Highlights

- On 24 November, WFP Niger held a debate session on gender-based violence to launch "the 16 days of activism" campaign.
- WFP nutrition activities are facing critical funding gaps and treatment activities risk to come to a halt in 2018 without immediate funding.
- Results of the Regional Plan for Prevention and Management of Food Crises (PREGEC) published on 29 November highlighted, "A mitigated end of the campaign in the Sahel with prospects of an early and difficult lean season in pastoral areas" of Sahel countries including Niger.

Providing life-saving support to directly affected by insecurity in northern Nigeria	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Regional EMOP 200777 (Jan 2015 – Dec 2017)	143 m	103.6 m (72%)	15 m

\*December 2017 – May 2018

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	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
SO 200792: (Jan 2015-Dec 2017)	24.2 m	23.8 m (98%)	0 m

\*December 2017 – May 2018

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

**1.4 m** people in food insecurity\*

**1.7 m** people in need of nutrition assistance\*

**381,300** people displaced (IDPs, refugees, returnees)

**650,000\*\*** People Assisted  
November 2017

\*HNO, November 2017  
\*\*estimated figure



November 2017

## Operational Updates

### VAM

The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) visited Niger from 21 to 23 November to monitor progress of mVAM projects targeting refugee and IDP populations, including two-way communications, Call Detail Records analysis, satellite imagery analysis and Free Basics application. Ten countries, including Niger, were selected to use KOICA funds for mVAM activities for a total duration of two years until 31 December 2018. During the mission, KOICA and WFP also met with external actors, including the Niger Government and FAO, to identify areas for collaboration on mVAM activities.

### Nutrition

WFP and government authorities are preparing the launch of the Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) on 8 December, 2017 at the Niamey Congress Centre. Training of the country technical team will take place from 4 to 6 December. This exercise aims to estimate the economic costs of child malnutrition by assessing its socio-economic consequences associated with health, education and productivity sectors.

### Climate Change and Early Warning

WFP carried out a mission on climate micro-insurance in Niger with the objective of analysing whether there is potential to implement an integrated approach to climate risk management that would protect food-insecure and vulnerable populations from major climate risks. The mission carried out interviews with actors in Niamey and then exchanges with communities in the Tahoua region (where a drought index had been defined beforehand). The report will be issued shortly.

### School Meals

Following the school meals cost benefit analysis conducted in the Maradi region in October, the initial report found that for each US dollar invested in school meals in Niger, the estimated return on investment is USD 6. The report recommends that WFP resume the dry ration system that will encourage families to keep girls in school and improve their attendance. In addition, increasing complementary activities in the community such as drilling water wells, creating cereal mills or community gardens, may help relieve the population and pressure on children.

### Rural development

WFP is signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. Within this framework and in a meeting held in November with the Minister of State, both ministries and WFP Country Director shared their concern over food insecurity in Niger. Discussions highlighted prospects of a WFP-FAO collaboration in the Diffa region. The Minister of State thanked WFP for its efforts, particularly recognizing its achievements made nationally in the recovery of 78,000 ha of degraded lands of which 60 percent are now agricultural lands.

### Gender

On 24 November, WFP held a session to discuss gender-based violence for the launch of "the 16 days of activism" campaign with the coordinator of the joint FAO-WFP-IFAD-UN Women programme as a guest speaker. Important issues tied to gender-based discrimination were discussed by the guest speaker and WFP staff. Orange decorated the office, staff clothing included. Photos and a video from the launch were posted on the country office twitter account.



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 4 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".

Population: **18 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **187 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower**

Food Insecure: 1.4 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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