



WFP Niger Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Saving Lives, Protecting Livelihoods and Enhancing the Resilience of Chronically Vulnerable Populations	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200583: (Jan. 2014 – Dec. 2016)	868,3 m	264,8 m (31%)	39.6 m (77%)

*October 2016- March 2017

WFP supports the Government in implementing a multi-sectoral, integrated community-based approach to household and community resilience. 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 asset (through food and cash), nutrition prevention and treatment activities, school meals and related programmes (such as school vegetable gardens and local milling and processing initiatives) as well as local purchases from smallholder farmers. 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.

Activities are implemented in the pre and post-harvest period to assist rural communities in revitalizing infrastructure, improving agricultural production and diversifying rural incomes. Activities are linked to the promotion of local production and purchases. The resilience programme relies on a participatory process and a three-pronged approach (national, subnational and community levels) relying on the seasonal livelihood programming and community-based participatory planning.

The regional emergency operation catering to needs of the Malian refugees ended in December 2015. The entire caseload was integrated under the existing PRRO. WFP continues to record the continuous arrival of refugees from Mali in all camps and hosting sites; this situation is likely to continue throughout the year.

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. A monthly bulletin on the in-country response is compiled by WFP for partners.

Highlights

- During the lean season, assistance was provided to 250,000 people, including children 6-59 months, pregnant women and nursing mothers.
- Due to lack of funds school children will receive reduced rations for the upcoming school year starting in October. If immediate funding is not secured the gains that have been made could be jeopardized.
- The launch of the E-Voucher system/SCOPE database is proving to be an effective and well appreciated mechanism which ensures transparency and quality of data analysis and distributions.

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. 2016)	64.4 m	41 m (64%)	24.5 m (73%)

*October 2016 – March 2017

The Regional Emergency Operation provides flexible assistance through conditional and unconditional food distributions, and nutritional supplement for children aged 6-23 months. The assistance is provided to an increasing number of refugees, displaced (returnees and IDPs) and host populations affected by the insecurity in northern Nigeria. WFP is providing a mixed flexible response assisting refugees, displaced populations and vulnerable host communities residing outside of the camps.

Provision of humanitarian air services in Niger	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
SO 200792: (Jan. 2015–Dec. 2016)	16.3 m	14.9 m (91%)

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 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. UNHAS remained the only key player in enabling up to 127 organizations to reach at least six destinations in Niger.

In Numbers

2 million people affected

253,000 people displaced (IDPs, refugees, returnees)

1.5 million people in chronic food insecurity

910,762
People assisted
September 2016



Integrated resilience programme:

- The national strategy for local purchases (in the framework of the PAA – Purchase for Africa from Africans) was validated by the Government of Niger. This is a big step for WFP as it provides sustainable market opportunities to smallholder farmers and strengthens South-South cooperation with Brazil.
- Data collection and analysis for the second joint WFP/Allianz NGO Post Distribution Monitoring assessment took place in September. Results will be available in mid-October.
- The SMART nutrition survey is currently being finalized and results are expected for the month of October.

Humanitarian assistance:

- WFP continues to assist 58,900 Malian refugees through unconditional assistance (food and cash voucher) in Tabarebarey, Abala and Mangaize camps and Intikane and Tazalit hosting sites.
- In August, WFP and UNHCR successfully launched an e-voucher distribution in Mangaizé refugee camp. The first phase benefited 9,000 people but the e-voucher project is expected to scale up 66,300 people living in other camps before the end of the year. In 2017, WFP plans to register the different groups of people it assists into the SCOPE platform.
- A joint workshop with WFP, UNHCR, the Ministry of Health and the cooperating partners took place between 14 and 22 September to assess the critical nutrition situation in the Malian refugee camps and elaborate an action plan.
- WFP and partners continue to respond to populations in the Diffa region affected by the evolving insecurity in the Lake Chad Basin.
- **Air support:** UNHAS continues to provide air transport services to the humanitarian community in all five regions of Niger. In September, UNHAS transported 1,261 passengers and 2,057 kg of cargo.

Challenges

- **PRRO 200583:** WFP continues to face a lack of financial resources that threatens the continuation of its activities till the end of the year and risks reversing the important gains that have been made in recent years. School children will receive reduced rations for the school year starting in October. If immediate funding is not received, the number of school meals could be reduced further along with the number of schools assisted by WFP.
- **EMOP 200777:** In Diffa, needs are continuously increasing as a result of the deterioration of the security situation. To address these challenges, humanitarian agencies are raising the level of response and the coverage rates within communes. Protection measures are also strengthened to ensure the safety of the people assisted at distribution sites. WFP is currently revising its strategy to ensure that assistance is provided to the most vulnerable.



Niger is a landlocked 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 alert 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**

Chronic food insecurity: **1.5 million**

Donors

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

Contact info: wfp.niamey@wfp.org

Country Director: Benoit Thiry

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/niger