



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 m	269 m (31%)	N/A

**Project ended in December

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 m	42.1 m (10%)	54.4 m (69%)

*January – June 2017

GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200961

WFP supports the Government in implementing a multi-sectoral, integrated community-based approach to building household and community 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 asset (through food 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. 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 relies on a participatory process amongst others through the 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 the needs of the Malian refugees ended in December 2015. The entire caseload was integrated under the existing PRRO. Unconditional food assistance along with nutritional supplementation for children 6-23 months is provided to Malian refugees in all camps and

Main Photo Credit: WFP/Katia Oslansky
Caption: Women of the Darey community, Tillaberi, where asset creation activities are taking place.

Highlights

- The local purchases programme in Maradi region was officially launched on 7 December.
- WFP prepares for the beginning of the new protracted relief and recovery project (PRRO), which will start in January 2017.
- WFP met with the food security working group to plan food assistance within the emergency response in the Diffa region for 2017.
- Over the next 6 months, with the beginning of the new resilience project, USD 55.3 million need to be found for the implementation of activities.

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.

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)	64.4 m	41 m (64%)	23.5 m (66%)

*January - June 2017

The Regional Emergency Operation provides flexible assistance through unconditional and conditional food 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)
SO 200792: (Jan. 2015–Dec. 2017)	24.1 m	16.4 m (68%)

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 110 organizations to reach at least six destinations in Niger.

In Numbers

2 m people affected

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

1.5 m people in chronic food-insecurity

657,920
People assisted
November 2016



Operational Updates

On 7 December the **local purchases programme** in Maradi region was launched in collaboration with FAO and the Nigerien Government (3N Initiative). This project helps to improve not only the income security of smallholder farmers and the nutritional status of children but also to mitigate volatile international food markets and support local economies.

During the reporting period, **WFP-IFAD joint planning** took place for the regions of Tahoua, Zinder and Maradi. The main goal was to promote synergy and complementarity of rural activities in 2017, throughout the mapping of intervention and the definition of convergence areas.

The humanitarian community agreed that WFP will lead the coordination **working group for cash transfers** in Niger in the upcoming year. Discussions on implementation are ongoing.

A **nutrition survey** on treatment coverage of moderate and acute malnutrition took place in several communes of the Maradi region in December. Preliminary results highlight significant improvements in 2016 in certain communes (Djiratawa and Mayahie), and regressions in others (Guidan Amoumoune) compared to 2015 results. Recommendations are being formulated to improve coverage in the following year.

Within the framework of the **adolescent girls' strategy**, missions took place in the regions of Maradi, Zinder, Tahoua and Tillabery to raise awareness on the implementation of decentralized education and nutrition services, which help break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition.

A retreat of the **UN Technical Working Group on Resilience** (GTTR) was held on 7 and 8 December with the participation of national and regional members. The objectives were to finalize and validate the action plan reflecting discussions of the Commune de Convergence meeting (held on 1 September), clarify the roles of the regional and central GTTR members, and develop the overview of GTTR activities in 2016 as well as the action plan for 2017.

A study mission on **sustainable school feeding in Africa**, with the support of the Brazilian Center of Excellence and the WFP African Union Office, visited Niger from 3 to 8 December. The objective of this study is to better understand how school feeding contributes to African development.

WFP operational planning for the regional emergency response in Diffa (EMOP 200777) took place in December and was presented to the food security working group on 19 December. Food assistance and geographic targeting were planned based on the latest Cadre Harmonisé results.

Planned relocation of Malian refugees from the Tazalit to the Intikane risk area (ZAR) did not take place in December as planned. Hence, December food rations for this group of refugees delivered in Intikane were not distributed.

UNHAS continues to provide air transport services to the humanitarian community in all five regions of Niger. In December, UNHAS transported 1,162 passengers and 2,121 metric tons of cargo.

Challenges

EMOP: The security context remains volatile across the Diffa region despite the decrease in tensions associated with terrorist threats. However, coordination continues with partners: nearly 2,760 metric tons of food were distributed to 165,915 people in need and cash distributions of USD 200,510 were distributed to 25,935 people in Diffa and Maine Soroa.

PRRO: WFP prepares for the beginning of the PRRO, which will start in January 2017. Funding will remain a challenge in 2017 as USD 54.4 million are needed to implement activities in the first six months.

Country Background & Strategy



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.

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