



In 2023, access to food emerged as the most pressing need for people in the Niger, where the impact of climate change and armed conflict continue to drive acute food insecurity. Around **80 percent of the population live in rural areas**, relying on agriculture for their livelihoods. Investing in this sector is cost effective and not only addresses immediate food needs but also ensures long-term resilience. A USD-124 market gardening kit yields up to ten times its value in vegetables, helping families to quickly produce their own food and generate income.



TO ASSIST
1.2 million people



FAO REQUIRES
USD 31 million

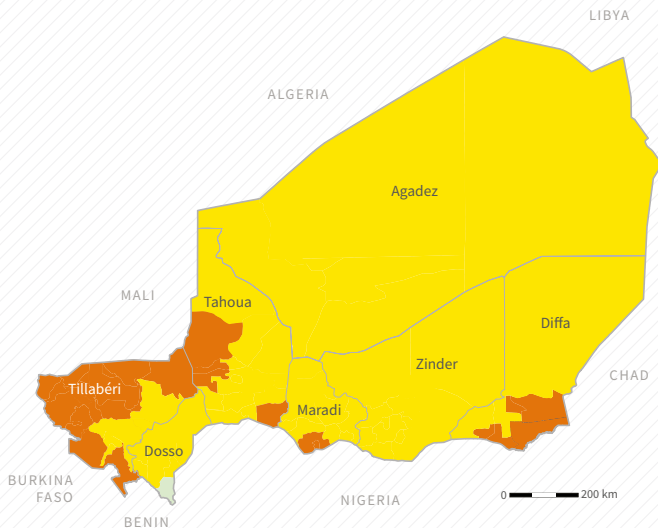


JANUARY–DECEMBER
2024

What investments in agriculture can achieve

- USD 106.50** = With the seeds provided, each household can cultivate 1 ha of land and produce an estimated 0.7 tonne of cowpea and millet, worth USD 400 on the local market. =  **Enable a family of 7 to produce enough staple food for 5 months**
- USD 400** = The provision of a goat kit (four goats, feed, mineral lick, veterinary supplies) along with training and a cash transfer can restore a household's daily access to milk supply, especially crucial for children. =  **Restore a family's productive assets and food supply**
- USD 207** = Cash for work provides lifesaving cash transfers to a household during the lean period, while building fire-breaks to safeguard pastures against bush fires. =  **Address immediate food needs while protecting and restoring fodder production**

Projected acute food insecurity situation (June–August 2024)



Cadre Harmonisé phase classification

- 1 – Minimal
- 2 – Stressed
- 3 – Crisis
- 4 – Emergency
- 5 – Famine
- Inadequate evidence
- Not analysed

Source: Cadre Harmonisé. 2023. *Sahel, Afrique de l'Ouest et Cameroun: Résultats de l'analyse de l'insécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle aiguë courante en octobre-décembre 2023 et projetée en juin-août 2024.* https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/ch/Fiche_Com_CH_Nov2023.pdf

Urgency of humanitarian agricultural assistance

The Niger continues to face a complex multidimensional crisis, mainly linked to climate extremes such as drought and floods, persistent armed conflict and intercommunal tensions, as well as structural issues such as chronic poverty. The imposition of drastic sanctions on the country by the Economic Community of West African States following the coup d'état in July 2023 has triggered major economic challenges. The closure of borders with neighbouring countries led to price spikes impacting households' access to food and basic social services. This has led to worsening levels of food insecurity, particularly in the regions most affected by the crisis – Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua and Tillabéri – where 20 percent of the population is acutely food insecure.

In 2024, attacks by non-state armed groups, rising food prices, epidemics, pockets of drought and flooding are expected to continue, affecting already vulnerable populations in the Niger. Providing them with essential agricultural inputs is vital for them to produce their own nutritious food.

Coordination

As co-leads of the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster in the Niger, FAO and the World Food Programme work closely with 45 local and international partners, in collaboration with government counterparts, to ensure a needs-based, coordinated and effective response.

Drivers of food insecurity

- Insecurity**
- Structural vulnerability**
- Internal displacement**
- Climatic shocks**
- Rapid population growth**
- Epidemics**

Key facts

Country population: **27.8 million**



3.2 million people likely to experience high levels of acute food insecurity (Cadre Harmonisé Phase 3 or above)



430 487 children affected by severe acute malnutrition



335 277 internally displaced people and **305 584** refugees



170 000 people affected by floods in 2023, of whom 52 died



30% increase in the price of millet compared with the five-year average



USD 3.60 out of 100 in humanitarian assistance to food sectors went to support agriculture and livelihoods (2016–2022)



In 2023, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) reached over 983 230 people across the Niger with emergency agricultural support. During the 2023 winter agricultural season, FAO carried out three main interventions, namely the provision of 616 tonnes of rainfed seeds to 53 863 households, the distribution of 2 303 tonnes of animal feed to 15 794 households and cash transfers (USD 116/ household) to 17 698 households. Over 30 percent of beneficiary households for livestock and cash activities were female headed. In addition, FAO reached 297 500 people with seeds for the irrigated season along with tools and training. As a result, households were able to cover their food needs during the lean season, while reducing their dependency on food aid. The cash provided enabled households to cover their food needs for about seven weeks and was mainly used to buy food and animals, as well as to set up income-generating activities and pay back debts.



FAO priorities

Priority	Type of assistance to be provided/content of assistance package	Cost per household (USD)	Number of beneficiary households	Total cost (USD)	Funds needed by	Planned implementation period
Enable households, including refugees, to produce staple food during the rainfed and irrigated seasons	Rainfed seed package: 10 kg of millet and 5 kg of cowpea seeds and tools	106.50*	87 000	9 265 795	March	April–October
	Irrigated season package: market-gardening and maize seeds, seed potatoes, tools and technical assistance	124	31 500	3 906 000	July	September–December
	Small-scale agricultural equipment solar kit; motor pumps; irrigation pipes	210	4 000	840 000	June	August–December
Improve livestock production by supporting households, including refugees, during the pastoral lean season	150 kg of animal feed and animal health kit (vaccines against peste des petits ruminants, pasteurellosis, sheep pox and antiparasitic)	140	61 845	8 658 300	Year-round	Year-round
	One male and three female goats, feed, mineral lick, animal health kit (vaccines against pest of small ruminants, pasteurellosis, sheep pox, antiparasitic) and cash transfers (USD 65/household)	400	3 500	1 400 000	August	September–December

*The cost per household displays up to two decimals



Priority	Type of assistance to be provided/content of assistance package	Cost per household (USD)	Number of beneficiary households	Total cost (USD)	Funds needed by	Planned implementation period
Safeguard the livelihoods of vulnerable farmers and pastoralists, including refugees	Cash for work, tools, herbaceous plant seeds and training to recover natural pastures	260	3 000	780 000	February	March–June
	Cash for work, tools and training to build 7 500 km of fire-breaks to protect fodder	207	7 500	1 552 500	September	October–December
	Cash for work, tools and training to rehabilitate 4 500 ha of land through half-moons, zaïs, etc. to increase sustainable agricultural land area	308.44*	4 500	1 388 000	March	May–December
Distribute donkey kits to facilitate water collection for women	One donkey and veterinary supplies	340	1 000	340 000	November	Year-round
Strengthen social cohesion	Dimitra clubs, communication inputs (radios and smartphones) training	47.39*	10 553	500 000	July	
Support households, including refugees, in setting up income-generating activities in agrifood processing	Unconditional cash transfer (USD 130/households) and training to set up income-generating activities	235	10 000	2 350 000	Year-round	

*The cost per household displays up to two decimals

REQUIRED CITATION

FAO. 2024. *The Niger: Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024*. Rome.

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