



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

In 2020, the Niger faced heavy flooding, armed conflict along with additional population displacements and the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, which have significantly impacted rural areas and the agriculture sector thereby leading to increased levels of food insecurity and malnutrition in the country.

Objectives

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working with partners in the Food Security Cluster to:

- Improve the living conditions and restore the livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations.

Activities



Safeguard agriculture-based livelihoods

quality inputs for rainfed and irrigated crops | market-gardening | rehabilitate agricultural sites and structures impacted by floods | processing and conservation equipment | income-generating activities mainly benefiting women and youth | unconditional cash transfers | cash for work | cash+ (livestock feed and cash transfers) | small ruminants (three female and one male goat per household) | provide women with donkeys | vaccinations and deworming | create firebreaks to protect areas of good biomass production against bush fires | recover degraded land | accountability to affected populations | Dimitra clubs | reforestation in internal displacement sites | agricultural and livestock kits to refugees



Improve coordination

strengthen coordination among local actors | capacity building | food security and nutrition situation analysis | monitoring mechanisms



The Niger

Humanitarian Response Plan 2021



to assist
728 700 people



FAO requires
USD 17 million

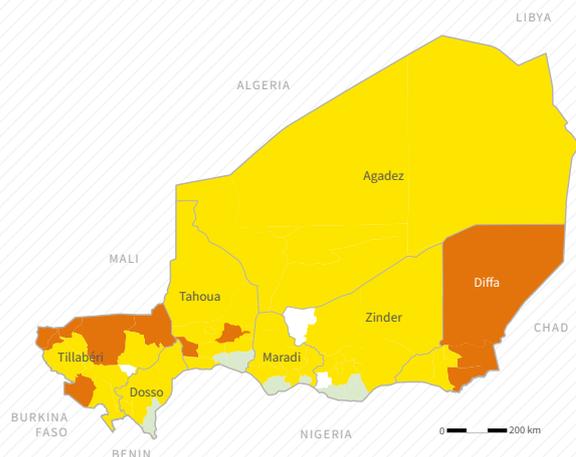


period
January–December 2021

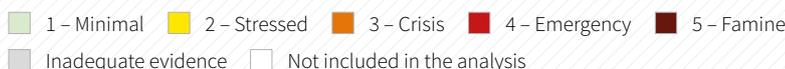
Providing livelihoods support to both displaced households and host communities is essential to quickly improve their food security and enhance social cohesion.



Projected acute food insecurity situation (June–August 2021)



Cadre Harmonisé phase classification



Source: The Food Crisis Prevention Network. 2020. *The Niger: Projected food security and nutrition situation, June–August 2021* [online]. Niamey, the Niger [Cited 3 February 2021]. <http://www.food-security.net/en/datas/niger/>

Situation analysis



1.7 million people projected to be in high acute food insecurity



1.3 million children of 6–59 months malnourished



80% of the rural population relies on agriculture for their livelihoods



+128 000 ha of cropland destroyed, **15 000** small ruminants lost and **550 000** people affected by floods



70% of households reported adopting at least one negative coping mechanisms in 2020

Impact on food security

The Niger has been affected by chronic food insecurity for decades. Households' vulnerabilities continue to be exacerbated by recurrent shocks related to insecurity, climate and epidemics, as well as structural issues such as poverty, land degradation and lack of access to basic social services coupled with demographic growth.

In 2020, torrential rains led to severe flooding in the Niger, causing extensive damages and losses across the country. Thousands of hectares of cropland were destroyed, animals were lost and more than 69 000 households have lost their livelihoods, further increasing their vulnerability.

The socio-economic impact linked to the COVID-19 pandemic worsened an already fragile situation. Beyond the direct health impact on affected households, the effects of the pandemic and related urgent and essential measures have resulted in reduced incomes for peri-urban agropastoral producers, further exposing women and children to abuse and violence. The supply and functioning of markets have been disrupted due to border closures, which has also restricted movement for migrant workers leading to a decline in human capacity in agricultural activities and delays in initiating production activities.

Furthermore, ongoing insecurity in the regions of Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua and Tillabéri continues to force people from their homes. This has resulted in widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities, leading to localized production deficits and households' increased dependency on external or adoption of negative coping mechanisms to cover their basic food needs. In addition, the gathering of animals in limited secure areas is also leading to the rapid degradation of available fodder and water resources as well as increasing tensions between farmers and herders.

Persistent armed conflict and inter-community violence, the extent of the damage caused by floods, and the adverse effects of COVID-19 as well as other epidemics will continue to negatively impact households' livelihoods in 2021. Up to one-third of the population is expected to be in need of humanitarian assistance this year. It is thus crucial to provide agricultural support to the most food-insecure households to quickly allow them to produce their own food and generate income.

Contact

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