Key points

- Increased violence in bordering regions with Burkina Faso, Mali and Nigeria, and intercommunal conflict have caused an unprecedented humanitarian crisis in the Niger along with higher levels of food insecurity and malnutrition.
- Poor distribution of rains, delayed rains and absence of rains, depending on the area, have resulted in an 11.3-million tonne fodder deficit, significantly disrupting the livelihoods of pastoral households, which are already affected by restricted access to traditional grazing grounds in neighbouring countries due to increased insecurity.
- Disruptions to rainfall along with caterpillar attacks have also affected the outcome of the 2019/20 agricultural campaign, with a 12-percent drop in cereal production compared with 2018/19.
- Flash floods in 2019, particularly in Agadez, Diffa, Maradi and Zinder, have affected over 259,000 people and resulted in the disruption of livelihoods and loss of livestock.

Planned response by July 2020

40,000 households (280,000 people) targeted
- Provide 30,000 vulnerable pastoral households with 5,000 tonnes of livestock feed (in kind or through voucher schemes)
- Provide 10,000 vulnerable farming households with 387 tonnes of seed for rainfed crop production, technical training and unconditional cash transfers (cash+)

Ongoing response

33,000 households (231,000 people) to be assisted with funding received
- Procurement of 2,045 tonnes of livestock feed, and 387 tonnes of cowpea, millet and sorghum seed for rainfed crop production to be distributed to vulnerable households
- Support to the Early Warning System for the identification of vulnerable areas in the Niger based on the Cadre Harmonisé analysis

In numbers

- 1.9 million people projected to be in severe acute food insecurity (June–August 2020)
- 190,248 internally displaced people, 218,260 refugees from Nigeria and Mali, and 29,954 returnees
- 80% of the population relies on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods
- USD 16 million required by FAO by December 2020, of which USD 3 million by April for emergency fodder provisions

Providing emergency fodder support is essential to safeguard the livelihoods of vulnerable households and avert a pastoral crisis
Challenges facing food security and agriculture

Increased insecurity and intercommunal conflict in the Niger have exacerbated existing vulnerabilities linked to the effects of natural disasters, epidemic diseases, plant pests and structural issues, causing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis in the country. In addition, the arrival of about 218,260 refugees fleeing violence in Nigeria and Mali are increasing pressure on local populations’ already limited resources.

Tensions between farmers and herders persist, leading to the displacement of thousands of people both within the Niger, particularly in the Diffa and southeastern regions, and to neighbouring countries.

These factors have hampered agricultural and pastoral activities. Poor to medium harvests have been registered for millet and sorghum production in 2019 in certain areas due to limited and erratic distribution of rainfall. At the end of 2019, the pastoral situation was marked by unfavorable conditions for fodder production, particularly in northern Diffa, centre-west of Tillabéri and Tahoua, resulting in an overall 11.3-million tonne fodder deficit.

According to the latest Cadre Harmonisé analysis (November 2019), higher levels of food insecurity and malnutrition were registered. If adequate assistance is not provided, over 1.9 million people will face severe acute food insecurity during the lean season (June–August 2020). Providing livelihood support to vulnerable pastoral and agropastoral households is crucial to safeguard livelihoods and prevent the worsening of this unprecedented crisis.