The Niger has recorded its highest number of food-insecure people in the last eight years. Increased armed conflict and floods have nearly doubled the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the last three. With unprecedented food shortages and 80 percent of the country’s population living in rural areas, affected households urgently need agricultural support to restore their food production and incomes.

What humanitarian investment in agriculture can achieve

USD 105 = A basic farming package of quality seed enables a household to cultivate 1 ha of land and produce an estimated 0.7 tonnes of cereals, worth USD 425 on the local market. = Provide a family of 7 with staple food for about 5 months

USD 129 = With 150 kg of feed, a household can keep 5 small ruminants fed and productive for 4 months when pasture is scarce, protecting assets worth USD 325 on the local market. = Keep livestock productive and feeding families throughout the lean season

USD 180 = Cash+ ensures a household can afford food by delivering cash transfers (USD 75/household/month) alongside farming inputs to resume their own food production. = Address immediate food needs while restoring self-sufficiency
**Urgency of humanitarian agricultural assistance**

The Niger continues to face a complex humanitarian crisis mainly marked by persistent insecurity and violence perpetrated by non-state armed groups against civilians and humanitarian workers, chronic poverty and natural hazards, including seasonal floods and recurrent droughts. So climate change is one of the most serious threats to development in the Niger, significantly affecting agricultural livelihoods and the country’s economy.

Mainly fueled by the decade-long security crisis in neighbouring countries – Burkina Faso, Mali and Nigeria – armed conflict is the main cause of forced population displacement in the Niger, along with climate-related disasters.

Although, the Niger is one of the countries least impacted by COVID-19 and related restrictions in the region, the pandemic has severely affected production activities and the food supply chain, hampering access to food especially during the lean season and leading to increased poverty through reduced incomes and employment opportunities. As a result, households adopt negative coping mechanisms such as selling productive assets and seed consumption, further increasing their vulnerability.

Providing households with fast growing seeds, for example, allows them to produce nutritious food for household consumption and for sale, generating income to cover other essential needs and supplying local markets.
**Coordination**

As co-leads of the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster in the Niger, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (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.

**FAO priorities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priorities</th>
<th>Type of assistance provided/ contents of assistance package</th>
<th>Cost per beneficiary (USD)*</th>
<th>Number of beneficiaries (people)</th>
<th>Total cost (USD)</th>
<th>Calendar of funding deadlines and implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enable staple food production during the rainy and irrigated seasons</td>
<td>Rainfed seeds (10 kg of millet and 5 kg of cowpea per household); market-gardening kits (5 kg of maize, 40 g of cabbage, carrot, lettuce and tomato seeds, and two tools); technical training; development of small-scale agricultural infrastructure (boreholes, solar kits, motor pumps, market gardening areas, etc.); cash+ (agricultural inputs plus cash)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>770 000</td>
<td>10 000 000</td>
<td>Jan: $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve livestock production</td>
<td>150 kg of animal feed (wheat bran) per household; one male and three female goats per households; veterinary kits; technical training; construction of firebreaks to protect fodder</td>
<td>31.20</td>
<td>282 500</td>
<td>8 815 900</td>
<td>Feb: $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support refugees and returnees through social protection</td>
<td>Cash (USD 140/household), inputs, equipment and training to set up income-generating activities</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>59 500</td>
<td>1 786 200</td>
<td>Mar: $</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The cost per beneficiary for each priority is an estimated average, including a range of activities.

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