**Key points**

- For over a decade, the Niger has experienced a food security crisis with agricultural and pastoral production deficits; in 2021, the 2 million tonne cereal deficit meant that 39 percent of the population’s needs and 46 percent of animals’ needs were not covered.
- The war in Ukraine is triggering atypical price increases, including of fertilizers and wheat products. Civil insecurity also persists in border areas of the country (Liptako-Gourma, Maradi and Diffa regions). As a result, the number of departments in Phase 3 (Crisis) in the Niger has doubled between 2020/21 and 2021/22. In addition, for the first time, there are two departments in Phase 4 (Emergency) in Tillabéri.
- With 80 percent of the country’s population living in rural areas, vulnerable households urgently need agricultural support to restore their food production and income-generating activities.

**Planned activities**

- Provide households with agricultural inputs (improved seeds, fertilizers, tools) and training during the rainy and irrigated seasons to ensure staple food production.
- Provide households with animals, feed, fodder seeds, veterinary supplies and vaccinations to improve livestock production.
- Support refugees, IDPs and returnees through social protection activities, such as cash+ (unconditional cash transfers plus agricultural inputs), cash for work and cash transfers to set up income-generating activities.

**Response to date (January–June 2022)**

- Provided 798 tonnes of rainfed millet and cowpea seeds along with technical support to 53 200 households.
- Distributed 2 693 tonnes of livestock feed to 17 953 households and provided them with veterinary inputs.
- Carried out livestock restocking through cash+ by providing each beneficiary with a voucher to buy four goats (three females and one male), animal feed and a cash transfer, benefiting 900 households.

FAO urgently requires funding to provide households with rainfed agricultural support to enable staple food production to quickly improve their livelihoods and food security.
Challenges facing food security and agriculture

In the Niger, insecurity and violence against civilians perpetrated by armed groups persist, particularly in the western, southeastern and south-central parts of the country, triggering increased population displacements.

Food prices continue to rise and are now exceeding 25–30 percent, which is well above the five-year average. These percentages are even higher (40–60 percent) in areas experiencing an escalation of security incidents, such as in the markets of Abala, Ayorou, Gotheye, Téra, and Torodi, in Tillabéri. The prices of imported food products – vegetable oil, dairy products, wheat and its by-products – are also generally increasing by over 50 percent following the decline in their availability in the context of the war in Ukraine, which is disrupting the functioning of international trade routes.

Pastoral areas have been depleted of fodder stocks and livestock breeders’ expenditures have increased for the maintenance of their animals given the highest price increases in the last ten years.

While the country is experiencing the highest levels of food insecurity in the last eight years, agricultural and livestock support activities remain underfunded. Providing vulnerable households with key inputs such as seeds and tools along with technical assistance enables them to produce their own food and to sell surplus production to generate income.