

Niger – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>24 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of Niger</p> <p><i>UN – January 2021</i></p>	<p>3.8 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People in Need in Niger</p> <p><i>UN – January 2021</i></p>	<p>283,000</p> <p>Estimated Number of IDPs in Niger</p> <p><i>UNHCR – August 2021</i></p>	<p>250,000</p> <p>Estimated Number of Refugees in Niger</p> <p><i>UNHCR – August 2021</i></p>	<p>2.3 MILLION</p> <p>Projected Acutely Food-Insecure Population for 2021 Lean Season</p> <p><i>CH – April 2021</i></p>
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- OAG attacks on civilian populations in Niger have intensified in recent months, generating widespread casualties, prompting mass displacement, and exacerbating humanitarian needs—particularly in western Niger’s Tahoua and Tillabéri regions.
- Since June, heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding have resulted in dozens of casualties and destroyed thousands of houses, devastating livelihoods and adversely affecting 196,000 people.
- Since a cholera outbreak began in mid-June, health actors have reported 4,700 suspected cholera cases and 149 associated deaths.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Niger Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA ¹	\$67,420,422
	State/PRM ²	\$36,891,884
Total		\$104,312,306

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 7

¹ USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
² U.S. Department of State Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

OAG Attacks Drive Increased Civilian Protection Concerns, Displacement

Armed conflict, general insecurity, and attacks by organized armed groups (OAGs) on population centers continue to generate civilian protection risks, drive displacement, and exacerbate humanitarian conditions across Niger, particularly in Tahoua and Tillaberi regions—located in the tri-border region between Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger—and Diffa and Maradi regions, located along the Niger–Nigeria border. According to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), violence against civilians led to at least 544 conflict-related deaths across the country between January and July, far outpacing the 397 conflict-related civilian deaths reported in the entirety of 2020. Security conditions have deteriorated particularly sharply in Tahoua and Tillaberi in recent months, with OAG actors increasingly targeting civilian populations, resulting in more than 420 civilian deaths between January and early August, according to Human Rights Watch. With State/PRM support, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recorded nearly 180 protection incidents in the two regions during August alone, including killings, kidnappings, gender-based violence (GBV), and threats to civilians. Growing insecurity has also prompted increased displacement in western Niger in recent months, with the internally displaced population in Tahoua and Tillaberi growing by nearly 60 percent to nearly 158,000 individuals between August 2020 and August 2021.

Deteriorating security conditions are also driving increased displacement in Maradi, where nearly 26,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were seeking shelter as of August. Moreover, organized criminal group (OCG) activity in neighboring Nigeria’s Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara states has forced more than 80,000 people to flee across the border to Maradi, including at least 10,000 Nigerian nationals who arrived in Maradi’s Guidan Roumdji Department during the first week of August alone, according to the UN. In contrast, security conditions in Diffa have improved moderately in recent months, with UNHCR recording approximately 210 major protection incidents in the region between January and August, representing a more than 40 percent decrease from the same period in 2020. The number of IDPs in Diffa has also decreased since June, when the Government of Niger (GoN) committed to begin facilitating the return of all IDPs in Diffa to their areas of origin. As of late August, more than 40,000 IDPs had returned to their villages, representing a nearly 40 percent decrease in the region’s overall displaced population. GoN authorities are providing food assistance and essential shelter items to IDPs upon their return. However, humanitarian partners remain concerned with the relocation process due to continued insecurity and a lack of basic services in areas of return. UNHCR recorded more than 30 major protection incidents in Diffa in August, including murder, kidnapping, assault, and GBV.

Widespread Flooding Affects 196,000 People, Drives Cholera Outbreak

Heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding during Niger’s June-to-September rainy season had resulted in 66 deaths, adversely affected nearly 196,000 people, and destroyed nearly 12,500 houses as of September 6, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The floods have also inundated nearly 15,000 acres of cropland and resulted in the deaths of nearly 10,500 head of cattle, exacerbating food insecurity across several conflict-affected regions. While the current flood-affected population remains below pre-rainy season projections—approximately 584,000 people are expected to be affected by floodwaters this season—and represents only 45 percent of the flood-affected population during the same period of 2020, the number of flood fatalities and livestock deaths are outpacing the 2020 season. The GoN continues to build and strengthen flood protection infrastructure and preposition food for distribution in flood-affected areas. In addition, the Nigerien Red Cross and the UN are also providing support to flood-affected households, which require urgent shelter support and essential non-food items, according to the UN. Climate change has contributed to seasonal rainfall

irregularities in Niger, resulting in increasingly frequent floods and droughts since 2011, the UN reports.

Flood-related displacement, latrine overflows, and destruction of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure are also contributing to an ongoing cholera outbreak in Niger that had resulted in approximately 4,700 suspected cases and 149 associated deaths as of mid-September. The outbreak first emerged in central Niger’s Maradi, Tahoua, and Zinder regions in mid-July, before spreading to western Niger’s Dosso, Niamey, and Tillaberi regions. Maradi is most affected, with more than 2,600 cases reported, followed by Tahoua and Zinder, with 1,100 and 520 cases reported, respectively. Health actors are responding to the outbreak by strengthening disease surveillance capacity, managing and treating suspected cases, disinfecting water points in affected areas, and pre-positioning cholera control supplies. The last cholera outbreak in Niger occurred in July 2018 in Maradi, resulting in 3,500 cases and 67 deaths as of September 2018, according to the UN.

CH Phase Classifications June – August 2021 ³	
Phase 5	0 people in Catastrophe
Phase 4	217,945 people in Emergency
Phase 3	2,091,192 people in Crisis
Phase 2	5,735,892 people in Stress
Phase 1	14,707,745 people Minimally Food-Insecure

Acute Food Insecurity Likely to Persist Despite Favorable Projected Harvest

Although many agricultural areas in Niger experienced delayed onsets to the June-to-September rainy season, current favorable rainfall conditions as of September will likely contribute to average overall agricultural production and pasture development throughout the country in the coming months, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). As a result, between October and January, harvests and increased agricultural income-generating opportunities will likely result in a decrease in the population facing Stressed—IPC 2—levels of acute food insecurity across southern Niger.⁴ However, widespread destruction of crops by seasonal flooding and above-average food commodity prices in local markets will continue to limit improvements to food security in the country. Moreover, OAG activity and related insecurity in Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua, and Tillaberi continues to disrupt agricultural activity, limit access to markets, and prompt new population displacement movements, further hindering livelihoods activities and driving widespread Stressed and Crisis—IPC 3—acute food insecurity conditions. While the delivery of emergency food assistance is preventing the further deterioration of food security

conditions in Diffa and Maradi, where Stressed conditions remain prevalent, limited humanitarian access and food assistance in Tahoua and Tillaberi will likely lead to continued Crisis levels in the regions over the coming months, FEWS NET reports. An estimated 600,000 people are at risk of experiencing Crisis or worse acute food insecurity conditions in Tillaberi alone, where OAG activity has led to widespread abandonment of crop fields, according to the UN.

Protracted acute food insecurity continues to contribute to widespread acute malnutrition conditions throughout Niger, according to OCHA. Average weekly admissions for the treatment of children experiencing severe wasting—a life-threatening form of malnutrition—increased steadily between January and July, and humanitarian actors remain concerned that the start of the cholera outbreak in July and seasonal flooding during the June-to-September rainy season may contribute to the continued deterioration of child nutrition conditions in Niger. In particular, health actors in areas of Maradi along

³ Estimates based on the March 2021 CH analysis.

⁴ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5. The Cadre Harmonisé (CH), a separate tool used only in West Africa, has a similar scale ranging from Minimal—Phase 1—to Famine—Phase 5.

the Niger–Nigeria border have reported sharp increases in the number of cases of moderate wasting—a serious form of malnutrition—among children between January and August, with Maradi’s Madarounfa Department reporting 40 percent more cases of moderate wasting than the Nigerien average between May and June. The continued influx of refugees fleeing OCG violence in Nigeria may be contributing to the high levels of wasting reported in the region.

KEY FIGURES



\$51 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for food security and nutrition programming



\$2.1 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for protection programming



\$3.9 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for shelter activities

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

With more than \$51 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA is providing life-saving agriculture, food, and nutrition assistance throughout Niger, as protracted armed conflict and resultant displacement, widespread flooding, high commodity prices, low agricultural production, and the adverse socioeconomic effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and related mitigation measures continue to result in acute food insecurity and malnutrition throughout the country. USAID/BHA supports the UN World Food Program (WFP) to provide emergency food assistance—in the form of U.S. in-kind food commodities and locally and internationally procured foods—to conflict-affected households in Diffa and Maradi, as well as throughout the tri-border area in Tahoua and Tillaberi. USAID/BHA also supports WFP and a non-governmental organization (NGO) partner to address rising levels of wasting throughout Niger, providing U.S.-sourced ready-to-use therapeutic foods, as well as locally produced nutritious foods, to prevent and treat malnutrition.

PROTECTION

The U.S. Government (USG) supports the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNHCR, and six additional implementing partners to address protection concerns among conflict-affected and displaced populations in Niger. USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners in Niger provide screening and case management for survivors of protection violations, kits and psychosocial support for GBV survivors, and safe social and recreational opportunities for children residing at displacement sites. USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners also provide preventative protection services to displaced populations, raising awareness of GBV and child protection risks in IDP and refugee camps, settlements, and host communities. In particular, State/PRM partners provide protection services for crisis-affected refugee children and persons living with disabilities.

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

Through shelter and settlements programming, the USG supports the provision of safe, covered living spaces for people who have been displaced due to conflict and natural disasters in Niger. With nearly \$3.9 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA partners with four NGOs to provide shelter materials and kits to displaced households. In addition, USAID/BHA partners provide local carpenters with training on constructing improved shelters to

improve the quality of semi-permanent dwellings in displacement sites. Partners also provide newly displaced households with essential household items to enable them to meet basic needs in the aftermath of major displacement events. Moreover, State/PRM partners with IOM to provide emergency and transitional shelters to displaced populations in Niger, as well as essential household items to other at-risk households.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Years of conflict perpetuated by Boko Haram and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)—West Africa have led to a humanitarian crisis in the Lake Chad Basin, an area comprising parts of northeast Nigeria, northern Cameroon, western Chad, and southeast Niger’s Diffa Region. Armed clashes, OAG attacks on civilians and relief workers, and general insecurity have driven mass displacement, hindered agricultural production, disrupted livelihoods, prevented delivery of humanitarian assistance, and restricted affected populations from accessing basic services in Diffa and the other affected countries.
- Beginning in 2012, armed conflict originating in northern Mali spread across the central Sahel, with the proliferation of OAGs and surging intercommunal violence generating widespread displacement and massive humanitarian needs across the entire region. In recent years, OAG activity—including increasing attacks on civilian populations—has been concentrated in the tri-border region between Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger’s Tahoua and Tillaberi regions. As of late August, conflict and insecurity had internally displaced approximately 158,000 people in Tahoua and Tillaberi, according to UNHCR.
- Since 2019, OCG activity in northwest Nigeria’s Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara states has prompted more than 80,000 Nigerians to flee into neighboring Niger’s Maradi Region. In addition, OCG activity has also spilled across the Niger–Nigeria border, triggering the internal displacement of approximately 26,000 people in Maradi.
- On November 10, 2020, U.S. Ambassador Eric P. Whitaker reddeclared a disaster due to the ongoing complex emergency in Niger. USAID/BHA and State/PRM continue to support food-insecure and vulnerable IDPs and host community members with food assistance or other emergency interventions to improve agricultural production and revitalize livelihoods. In addition, USAID/BHA and State/PRM funding supports the provision of health care, protection services, safe drinking water, and improved WASH infrastructure among conflict-affected communities, as well as technical coordination and logistics assistance to streamline the delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NIGER RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners	Agriculture; Economic Recovery and Market Systems; Food Assistance; Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Humanitarian Policy, Studies, Analysis, or Applications; Multipurpose Cash Assistance; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéri	\$15,539,306
OCHA	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$900,000
WFP	Logistics – UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Countrywide	\$1,300,000
	Food Assistance – U.S. In-Kind Food Commodities; ² Nutrition	Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéri	\$31,628,204
	Food Assistance - Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéri	\$18,000,000
	Program Support		\$52,912
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$67,420,422
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$11,424,284
IOM	Protection, Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items	Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéri	\$1,500,000
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	COVID-19 Response	Countrywide	\$200,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$22,800,000
UN International Labor Organization (ILO)	Livelihoods	Tillabéri	\$967,600
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$36,891,884
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NIGER RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$104,312,306

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2021.

² Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement, subject to change.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)

- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)