



DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS & GOVERNANCE

NIGER FACTSHEET

The 2020-2021 local and national elections were the third time since 2011 that citizens democratically elected new leaders, and the first time that power passed peacefully via elections from one civilian president to the next. However, Niger is still facing widespread insecurity and is confronting persistent threats from violent extremist (VE) groups, including Al-Qaida-affiliated Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) and the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) in the tri-border area of Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso, and Boko Haram in the south-eastern Diffa region.

Weak governance, and lack of services, economic opportunities, and justice increase community-based conflicts and increase vulnerability to VE recruitment. Women, youth, and marginalized populations are often disproportionately affected.

OUR WORK

Since Niger's return to democratic rule in 2011, the United States has supported efforts to improve participatory democratic governance, increase transparency, fight corruption, expand civil liberties, and build Nigeriens' resilience to violent extremism. In addition to supporting democratic values, practices, and institutions, USAID is helping the Nigerien government to provide quality public services, answer citizens' needs and concerns, and improve access to justice and human rights protection. It is also supporting civil society efforts to accelerate the pace of ongoing reforms, reduce conflicts in their communities and advance Women, Peace, Security initiatives.

DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS PROVIDE FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

Ahead of the 2020-2021 local, parliamentary and presidential elections, USAID supported preparations for a peaceful democratic transition, including political consensus on a revised electoral code and procedures, capacity building of political parties, voter registration and education, and prevention of electoral violence. It is supporting implementation of post elections strategic priorities, capacity building for the national election commission and increased awareness among political parties, civil society organizations and citizens on electoral reforms and the need for peaceful and inclusive elections.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS ARE MORE TRANSPARENT, ACCOUNTABLE, AND RESPONSIVE TO CITIZEN NEEDS

To improve people's and communities' ability to enact change and demand more responsive governance, USAID supports citizen mobilization, advocacy, and dialogue with the government. This includes support for transfer of planning, resource allocation, and management responsibilities to the local government levels to better reach citizens. To ensure that policies and reforms are inclusive and reflect the needs of all Nigeriens, USAID supports non-governmental actors to better communicate their priorities. It is also assisting local governments to be more resilient, improve service delivery and better manage natural resources through participatory development planning. USAID is expanding women's participation in local decision-making and gender-responsive service delivery.

RESPECT FOR JUSTICE, FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS, AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

USAID is helping the people of Niger to know their rights and have better access to justice. This includes engagement with traditional conflict mediation mechanisms and the formal justice system to allow citizens and communities to peacefully resolve conflicts, settle long-standing disputes, or address human rights violations. Especially in areas prone to violent extremism, this is critical to slow the spread of radicalism and violent conflicts.

COLLABORATION TO REDUCE VULNERABILITY TO VIOLENT EXTREMISM

With a view to improving the security of communities in areas affected by conflict, USAID brings together community leaders, government and security forces, and citizens to increase their skills to peacefully communicate and address ongoing sources of tension. At the national level, USAID assisted the Nigerien government in developing its first national strategy for countering violent extremism and developing solutions to improve security and reduce conflicts. To reduce the risk of Nigerien youth being recruited by violent extremist groups, USAID is working with the government to increase youth participation in the country's political and economic life and ensure access to justice in conflict zones.

OUR GOALS

- Ensure more consensual, transparent, and inclusive elections and political processes.
- Boost government transparency and responsiveness to citizen needs.
- Improve capacity of citizens and non-governmental actors to take collective action.
- Strengthen civic participation, specifically of youth, women and girls, in governance.
- Increase citizens' access to justice, and respect for, human rights.
- Address drivers of violent extremism and support community peace building.

CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

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