

CONTEXT

- An estimated 4.3 million people—approximately 17 percent of the country’s population—require humanitarian assistance in Niger in 2023, primarily due to climatic shocks such as drought and seasonal floods, chronic food insecurity, and protracted conflict, according to the UN.
- Armed group violence in the Lake Chad Basin since 2017 has led to widespread displacement and the disruption of livelihoods and markets in Niger’s Diffa Region. Meanwhile, armed group violence and intercommunal conflict in and around Maradi Region and eastern Diffa continue to heighten food, health, nutrition, and protection needs. Separately, insecurity in the Liptako-Gourma Region—also referred to as the tri-border area, which encompasses the contiguous areas of northern Burkina Faso, southern and central Mali, and southwestern Niger—since 2018 has exacerbated humanitarian conditions and limited access to social services, particularly in Niger’s Tahoua and Tillabéri regions, the UN reports.
- Persistent conflict had displaced nearly 362,000 people in Niger as of late March, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Additionally, the country was hosting more than 255,000 refugees and asylum seekers, primarily from neighboring Mali and Nigeria. An estimated 138,000 of these refugees and asylum seekers and more than 140,000 of those internally displaced resided in Diffa alone, UNHCR reports. Moreover, insecurity continues to generate displacement and limit access to basic services in Tahoua and Tillabéri, where more than 200,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) resided as of March.
- Food insecurity remains widespread in Niger, particularly in areas affected by armed group activity where violence and resultant displacement restrict agricultural production and access to markets. As a result, nearly 3.3 million people in Niger are likely to face Crisis—Phase 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity during the June-to-August 2023 lean season, the period when food is most scarce, according to March Cadre Harmonisé projections.¹
- Niger remains vulnerable to recurrent climatic hazards, particularly drought and floods. Torrential rains and floods during the June-to-September 2022 rainy season adversely affected more than 327,000 people, primarily in Maradi and Zinder regions, resulting in at least 195 deaths as of October 2022, the UN reports.



ASSISTANCE

- USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) provides both emergency and early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) assistance in Niger, promoting self-reliance and enabling households to cope with recurrent shocks. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, USAID/BHA-funded partners continue to provide humanitarian aid—

¹ Cadre Harmonisé (CH) is a standardized framework used across West Africa and the Sahel that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity. The CH scale is comparable across countries in West Africa and ranges from Minimal—Phase 1—to Famine—Phase 5.

primarily food assistance—to IDPs, Malian and Nigerian refugees, and host communities in Niger, helping to meet emergency needs while developing long-term community resilience.

- With USAID/BHA support, the UN World Food Program (WFP) and three non-governmental organization (NGO) partners continue to provide emergency food assistance to reach conflict-affected populations in Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua, and Tillabéri. USAID/BHA partners provide food-insecure individuals with U.S. in-kind food commodities—such as fortified rice, lentils, and vegetable oil—and locally and internationally procured foods, as well as food vouchers and cash transfers redeemable for food in local markets.
- USAID/BHA supports the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), WFP, and three additional NGO partners to mitigate poor nutrition outcomes among conflict- and climatic shock-affected people. USAID/BHA partners work to improve nutrition outcomes among children ages five years and younger through community awareness initiatives; early detection of malnutrition; and treatment of wasting, the deadliest form of malnutrition. Partners also deliver ready-to-use therapeutic foods to hard-to-reach areas of Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéri, and Zinder. Additionally, USAID/BHA supports an NGO partner that works with community health workers in Zinder to organize support groups for women—particularly pregnant and lactating women and mothers of children ages two years and younger—to promote good health, hygiene, and nutrition practices.
- USAID/BHA-funded water, sanitation, and hygiene assistance increases conflict- and shock-affected populations’ access to safe drinking water through the construction and rehabilitation of water points and the distribution of water filters in hard-to-reach areas. To promote safe hygiene and sanitation practices among vulnerable households across four regions of Niger, USAID/BHA partners also construct emergency latrines in IDP sites and host communities, distribute hygiene kits, and deliver critical hygiene awareness sessions.
- USAID/BHA supports three partners to provide essential health services to vulnerable populations in hard-to-reach areas through mobile clinics. The clinics support curative and primary care, mental health, and reproductive health, as well as provide psychosocial support in remote villages and IDP sites that are isolated from social structures and services. The mobile clinics had reached more than 460,000 individuals in Tahoua and Tillabéri regions as of November 2022.

USAID/BHA Funding in Niger ²			
	Emergency ³	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2022	\$89,223,967	\$38,184,867	\$127,408,834
FY 2023	\$42,656,200	\$12,033,865	\$54,690,065

² Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of May 4, 2023.

Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

³ Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.