



A girl who is internally displaced in Awaridi (Diffa Region) collects water at a water point that was built with UNICEF support.

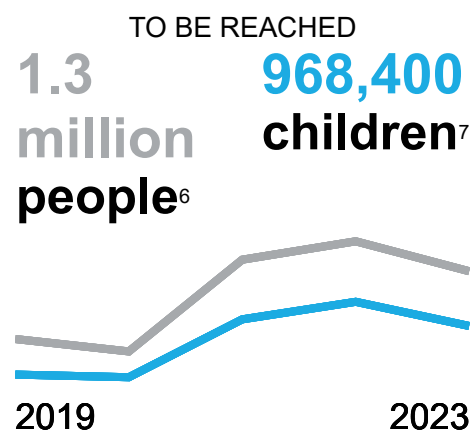
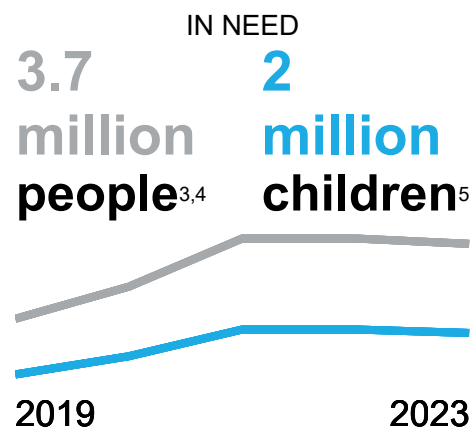
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for every child

## Humanitarian Action for Children

# Niger

### HIGHLIGHTS<sup>1,2</sup>

- The Niger is facing a combination of acute and protracted humanitarian crises. Armed conflicts continue to contribute to population displacement in a country that is highly vulnerable to climate-related disasters, multiple epidemics and nutritional crises. In 2023, about 3.7 million people, including 2 million children, will need humanitarian assistance in the country. Although the 2022 agricultural season is expected to be productive, pockets of high-risk food insecurity and wasting will remain throughout 2023, particularly in areas facing insecurity, drought and flooding.
- UNICEF will provide a timely, coordinated and multisectoral humanitarian response that focuses on the needs of children and women. A systematic gender and disability lens will be applied to all analyses and programme design.
- UNICEF requires US\$72.6 million to provide life-saving, multisectoral assistance to vulnerable children and women (including people living with disabilities) affected by humanitarian crises in the Niger. The nutrition, education and WASH sectors account for 55.3 per cent of this funding requirement.



### KEY PLANNED TARGETS



**430,000**

children with severe wasting admitted for treatment



**380,000**

women and children accessing gender-based violence mitigation, prevention, response



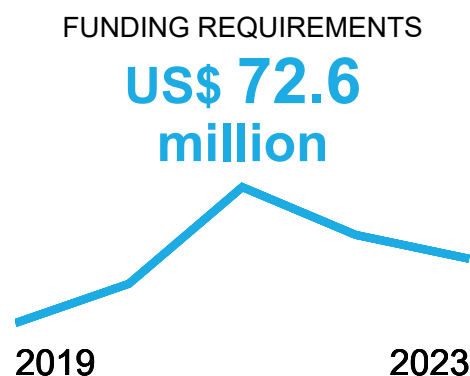
**132,300**

children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning



**430,000**

people reached with critical WASH supplies



Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Armed conflicts continue to afflict the areas of the Niger that border Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Nigeria, predominantly affecting populations living in Diffa, Maradi, Tillaberi and Tahoua Regions. Forced displacements, malnutrition, recurrent health epidemics, cyclical floods and drought in the Niger have placed more than 3.7 million people, including 2 million children, in need of humanitarian assistance in 2023.<sup>15</sup> Many of those in need are located in areas that are hard to reach due to insecurity, which remains a major bottleneck for the delivery of humanitarian assistance.<sup>14</sup>

Insecurity is ongoing, with heightened incidences of such grave violations against children as abduction, recruitment by non-state armed groups and child marriage. Attacks in the Lake Chad region have prevented nearly 254,308 people<sup>13</sup> in Diffa Region from returning home.<sup>16</sup> Nearly 167,744 people are displaced in Tahoua and Tillaberi Regions.<sup>12</sup> More than 57,110 refugees who fled community-based violence in northern Nigeria are currently living in Maradi Region, together with more than 18,000 internally displaced people.<sup>17</sup> Food insecurity is pervasive in the Niger. Between January and September 2022, 579,180 children under 5 years of age suffered from wasting. This includes more than 304,108 children (61.8 percent) who experienced severe wasting. Nearly 1.3 million people required access to emergency WASH services.<sup>10</sup>

Epidemics, including measles, meningitis and cholera remain widespread. Essential services have been disrupted by both conflict and floods. Difficulties in purchasing vaccines for vaccine-preventable diseases have resulted in stockouts and delayed the implementation of field activities.

The education sector continues to face multiple challenges that are exacerbating pressure on existing educational structures. Sixty per cent of children are out of school at the primary and lower secondary levels,<sup>8</sup> making children and adolescents particularly vulnerable to the effects of conflict. As of September 2022, 890 schools were reported closed due to insecurity, affecting approximately 78,000 students.<sup>18</sup> In 2022, children were targeted in 608 protection incidents, an increase of 25 per cent compared with 2021. More than 57,000 children have been traumatized by violence related to the attacks of armed groups and are in need of mental health and psychosocial support.

The Niger remains highly vulnerable to climate-related threats,<sup>11</sup> including floods and drought. As of 22 September 2022, the country registered 241,760 people (28,885 households)<sup>9</sup> affected by floods, along with 179 deaths.<sup>19</sup>

## SECTOR NEEDS



**1.3 million** people in need of health assistance<sup>20,21</sup>



**1.6 million** children in need of nutrition assistance<sup>22,23</sup>



**577,300** children in need of protection services<sup>24</sup>



**444,289** children in need of access to school<sup>25</sup>



**1.3 million** people lack access to safe water

## STORY FROM THE FIELD



"Around 9 p.m., I felt creaks in the walls of my mud house," says Ousmane, 32.

"Immediately, we took shelter in the neighbouring house. Around midnight, I heard a great noise: my house was falling. I had lost all my belongings. My house was over 20 years old, inherited from my parents," says Ousmane.

UNICEF is working in collaboration with the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management to strengthen its operational and technical capacities and by ensuring the provision of essential household item kits to meet the needs of women and children affected by floods.

**[Read more about this story here](#)**

Ousmane, 32, and his family are among those assisted by the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management with UNICEF support, after massive flooding in Maradi Region.



In 2023, UNICEF's strong field presence and technical expertise will facilitate rapid deployment of emergency responses in the Niger in line with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action. UNICEF will respond to emergencies by improving multisectoral approaches, integrating risks and consolidating support through emergency cash transfers. UNICEF is responding to the multiple effects of the Sahel crisis, including forced displacement, food insecurity and malnutrition and school closures.

Within the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), UNICEF will continue to lead technical coordination and procurement, ensure monitoring, participate in multisectoral assessments and pre-position contingency stocks to meet the vital needs of the affected population.<sup>28</sup> UNICEF will expand humanitarian cash transfers to improve their flexibility and effectiveness; strengthen emergency preparedness; and implement a nexus approach linking humanitarian and development efforts.

UNICEF will ensure capacity strengthening of partners involved in the emergency response in Diffa, Tillaberi and Tahoua Regions.

UNICEF will provide treatment for severe wasting and strengthen the health system and community platforms to ensure its early detection and quality care. To reduce malnutrition in the long-term, UNICEF's response aims to increase the proportion of infants aged 0-5 months who are exclusively breastfed to 50 per cent and the proportion of children aged 6-23 months who are receiving the minimum dietary diversity to 35 per cent (by 2025).

WASH interventions will strengthen the resilience of vulnerable populations through the promotion of good hygiene practices and improved access to basic sanitation and safe drinking water in communities, schools and health centres. UNICEF will support cholera prevention and establish preparedness actions.

UNICEF's health strategy aims to support continuity of health and immunization services through surveillance, immunization,<sup>29</sup> case management<sup>30</sup> and the organization of mobile clinics in hard-to-reach areas.

UNICEF will support the continuity of learning in safe and inclusive environments, while providing learning materials for teachers and children affected by humanitarian crises. Skills development programmes for adolescents will be promoted, including mentoring programmes for girls. Education stakeholders will work in close collaboration with child protection actors and government partners to ensure incorporation of child protection elements as well as gender and inclusion aspects within the education response.

Crisis-affected children will receive comprehensive child protection services,<sup>31</sup> including psychosocial support. UNICEF will enhance gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse risk mitigation through stronger integration into all programmatic interventions. The monitoring of grave violations and situations of concern will be reinforced by including prevention activities, with the aim of providing children with a safe and secure environment.

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/niger/situation-reports>

This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.



## Health

- **152,100** children vaccinated against measles
- **140,000** children and women accessing primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities



## Nutrition

- **430,000** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **400,000** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **230,000** children aged 6-23 months receiving micronutrient powder<sup>32</sup>



## Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **150,000** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **380,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **150,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **1,500** children who have exited an armed force and groups provided with protection or reintegration support



## Education

- **132,300** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **66,930** children receiving individual learning materials<sup>33</sup>
- **10,000** children and adolescents accessing skills development programmes<sup>34</sup>
- **2,500** schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)



## Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **230,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **125,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **430,000** people reached with critical WASH supplies



## Social protection

- **4,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers
- **10,000** households benefitting from new or additional social assistance (cash/in kind) measures from governments with UNICEF-technical assistance support



## Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)

- **10,000,000** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services<sup>35</sup>
- **246,500** people who participate in engagement actions
- **89,100** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms



## Essential commodities

- **171,500** displaced persons and people affected by natural disasters provided with essential household items

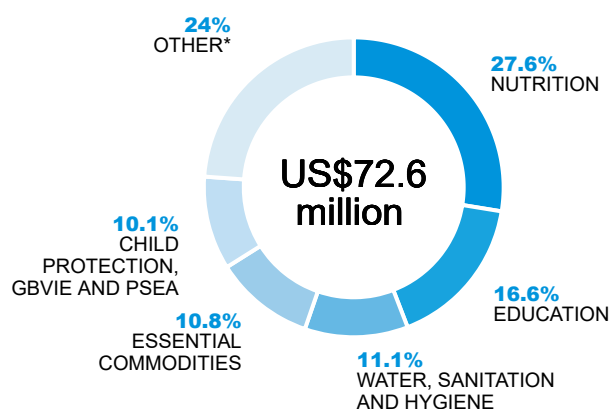
Programme targets are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

UNICEF requires US\$72.6 million to provide life-saving, multisectoral assistance to vulnerable children and women affected by violence and trauma due to ongoing humanitarian crises in the Niger. Without sufficient funding, UNICEF will be unable to reach 370,000 adults and 970,000 children, including 370,000 displaced and refugee children with conflict-related needs and 133,000 vulnerable children<sup>36</sup> affected by floods.

This 2023 appeal no longer includes social protection activities related to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, which have now been integrated into UNICEF's regular programming, resulting in a lower financial requirement for this appeal.

Emergency needs in the Niger related to conflict, forced displacement and reduced access to social services in hard-to-reach areas have continued to rise in recent years. The requested funding - particularly flexible or softly earmarked funds - will enable UNICEF to provide life-saving services and assistance to the most vulnerable children and families in the Niger and to prepare and respond strategically where the needs are greatest.



\*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Health (8.0%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (7.0%), Social protection (6.6%), Cluster coordination (2.2%).

Sector	2023 requirements (US\$)
Health	5,795,600
Nutrition	20,000,000 <sup>37,38</sup>
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	7,312,500 <sup>39</sup>
Education	12,031,400
Water, sanitation and hygiene	8,082,200
Social protection	4,800,000 <sup>40</sup>
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	5,110,300
Essential commodities	7,821,500
Cluster coordination	1,601,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,555,400</b>

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# ENDNOTES

1. COVID-19 remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern as declared by the World Health Organization in January 2020. On 1 July 2022, UNICEF deactivated its Level 3 Sustained Phase for the global COVID-19 pandemic response. All activities related to COVID-19 pandemic response, including programme targets and funding requirements, have been shifted into regular development programming and operations. While UNICEF's Level 3 emergency response phase of the COVID-19 pandemic was deactivated, the organization is continuing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on children, their families and their communities and on the social systems they rely on.
2. UNICEF activated its Corporate Emergency Level 2 Scale-up Procedure for the Niger for the following period: 18 July 2022 to 18 January 2023. UNICEF Emergency Procedures are activated to ensure a timely and effective response to all crises. The emergency procedures provide a tailored package of mandatory actions and simplifications required for all offices responding to Level 3, Level 2 and Level 1 humanitarian situations.
3. This figure remains unchanged and it will be updated in December 2022, when the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview for the Niger is validated.
4. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
5. This figure remains unchanged and it will be updated in December 2022, when the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview for the Niger is validated.
6. Calculated using 430,000 children between 6 months and 5 years of age to be reached by the nutrition sector; 424,700 children older than 5 years of age to be reached by the child protection sector; 14,186 children under 6 months of age to be reached by the WASH sector; 297,908 adults to be reached by the WASH sector; and 171,500 people to be reached with essential household item assistance not included in the counting of the targets for the other sectors. This includes 682,530 women and girls and 56,208 people with disabilities. UNICEF is committed to a needs-based approach, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities. The number of people to be reached is slightly lower than in 2022 because of a decrease in the nutrition target. The nutrition target for 2023 is based on the number of children affected by wasting (as opposed to the previous year, when the target was calculated using the number of children receiving vitamin A supplementation, which is now implemented through UNICEF's regular programming).
7. Calculated using 430,000 children between 6 months and 5 years of age to be reached by the nutrition sector; 424,700 children older than 5 years of age to be reached by the child protection sector; 14,186 children under 6 months of age to be reached by the WASH sector; and 99,470 children to be reached with essential household items assistance, not included in the counting of the targets for the other sectors. The total target includes 493,862 girls and 37,522 children with disabilities. The number of children to be reached is slightly lower than in 2022 because of a decrease in the nutrition target. The nutrition target for 2023 is based on the number of children affected by wasting (as opposed to the previous year, when the target was calculated using the number of children receiving vitamin A supplementation, which is now implemented through UNICEF's regular programming).
8. Ministry of National Education, 2018.
9. The Maradi and Zinder Regions were the most impacted, with 79,996 and 75,125 people affected, respectively.
10. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Niger: 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan, OCHA, February 2022.
11. The Niger ranks seventh in the world on the Children's Climate Rights Index. See: UNICEF, The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index, UNICEF, New York, August 2021.
12. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), July 2022. 26.6 per cent are children.
13. Including 120,613 internally displaced people, 130,023 refugees and 3,612 asylum-seekers.
14. Access is a barrier to monitoring the situation, assessing needs, delivering assistance and confirming alerts.
15. This value remains unchanged and it will be updated in December 2022, when the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023 will be validated.
16. Direction Regional de l'Etat Civil, des Migrations et des Réfugiés (DREC), August 2022.
17. UNHCR, July 2022.
18. Ministry of National Education, September 2022.
19. Niger, Ministère de l'Action Humanitaire et Gestion des Catastrophes, Septembre 2022.
20. OCHA, Niger: 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan.
21. The number of the people in need of health assistance in 2022 is 1.2 million (2022 Humanitarian Response Plan). The provisional estimate for 2023 is 1,340,447. This value constitutes an increase of 11.7 per cent, due to the inclusion of people in Niamey and Zinder Region.
22. This figure represents a 110 per cent increase compared with the figure in the 2022 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal (741,391 children), which was later estimated to be 1,557,322 children. Therefore, UNICEF's sector needs estimation in 2023 remains unchanged compared to the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan estimate.
23. Including 430,000 children aged 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment.
24. OCHA, Niger: 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan.
25. This figure represents a 52 per cent decrease compared with the figure in 2022 (934,348 children) which was later estimated to be 405,993 children in the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan. Therefore, UNICEF's sector needs estimate in 2023 is a 10 per cent increase compared with the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan estimate, following an increase of about 60 per cent in the number of school closed due to insecurity.
26. UNICEF is committed to supporting the leadership and coordination of humanitarian response through its leadership or co-leadership of cluster coordination for the WASH, Nutrition and Education Clusters and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility. All cluster coordinator costs are included in sectoral programme budgets.
27. UNICEF is committed to empowering local responders in humanitarian crises in a variety of ways. The revised Core Commitments made investing in strengthening the capacities of local actors in the humanitarian response a mandatory benchmark for UNICEF action. A more localized response will improve humanitarian action and is fundamental to achieving better accountability to affected populations.
28. In Diffa, Maradi and along the borders with Mali and Burkina Faso.
29. Immunization to respond to diseases outbreaks.
30. Including community-based care.
31. Partly through referral, services to be provided to children affected by crises will focus primarily on: 1) provision of care and support services, including socioeconomic reintegration of children freed from armed groups during military operations and those who manage to escape from non-state armed groups; 2) offer mental health response and integrated psychosocial support to children affected by the ongoing humanitarian crises; 3) mitigation and prevention of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse and intervention services to girl and women survivors; 4) strengthening monitoring activities on grave violations and increasing data collection; and 5) identification, care and reunification of separated children and unaccompanied children. All these responses will be supported by capacity strengthening of child protection partners (state and non-state) to support emergency responses in remote and hard-to-reach conflict-affected areas.
32. Micronutrient supplementation is part of UNICEF's comprehensive approach to treating and preventing malnutrition. The 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for the Niger will report on progress against this indicator as part of this comprehensive approach. However, it should be noted that the activity is funded through UNICEF's regular programming and not included in the Humanitarian Action for Children financial requirement.
33. This includes only internally displaced and refugee children, because children from the host community will be provided with materials from the Ministry of National Education.
34. The priority will be given to adolescents over 15 years of age and the focus will be on implementing hybrid platforms (including digital platforms) to promote learning opportunities for young people who missed education through information sharing, communication, civic engagement, entrepreneurship and mentorship.
35. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
36. Niger, Ministère de l'Action Humanitaire et Gestion des Catastrophes, Septembre 2022.
37. UNICEF has reviewed the cost of emergency response for nutrition in light of a more coordinated approach to prevention and treatment of severe wasting.
38. US\$100,000 is for activities linked to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.
39. US\$210,000 for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and US\$200,000 for gender-based violence in emergencies. Forty per cent of the funds will be used to support risk mitigation in the various programmatic sector interventions.
40. 4,000 households will receive multipurpose cash based on the minimum expenditure basket validated by the Multisectoral Cash Working Group of the Niger in collaboration with the government unit in charge of social safety nets. This basket amounts to CFAF81,549 (US\$125.50) per month per household. An amount of US\$200 is estimated per household (including transfer costs), for a total budget of US\$800,000.