



Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

Niger

The Niger is facing a combination of acute and chronic humanitarian crises. About 2.9 million people, including 1.6 million children, require humanitarian assistance,¹ and many of those in need are hard to reach. Increasing attacks on civilians in the Lake Chad region have prevented 263,000 people in Diffa from returning home.² Mounting insecurity along the borders with Burkina Faso and Mali has exacerbated needs in Tillabéri and Tahoua, where 111 schools are affected and over 80,000 people are displaced – 51 per cent more than in 2018.³ A new crisis erupted in July 2019, with over 35,000 people fleeing atrocities in northern Nigeria and arriving in Maradi.⁴ Conflict and insecurity have exacerbated existing vulnerabilities and suffering caused by natural disasters, health emergencies and structural issues. Over 260,000 people have been affected by flooding; 380,000 children are at risk of severe acute malnutrition (SAM); and 600,000 children are threatened by epidemics.⁵ Girls are at risk of abduction, forced marriage and survival sex, and boys are being exploited for work and recruited by armed groups.⁶ Humanitarian needs are expected to increase in 2020, especially in regions bordering Burkina Faso, Mali and Nigeria, and household livelihoods and coping mechanisms will be further stretched.

Humanitarian strategy

In 2020, UNICEF will pursue a three-pronged humanitarian strategy in the Niger. First, UNICEF will work with national actors to strengthen countrywide health and nutrition systems and increase national capacities to mitigate risks and respond to cyclical and chronic emergencies, including flooding, malnutrition, disease outbreaks and epidemics. This includes SAM prevention and treatment, vaccination campaigns, cholera preparedness and health care. Second, UNICEF will respond to acute emergencies, including new population movements in Diffa, Maradi and along the Burkina Faso border. UNICEF and partners will increase in-country response capacities, including through the Rapid Response Mechanism, for which UNICEF provides technical leadership and centralizes the procurement of non-food items. Complementary operational strategies will focus on accessing vulnerable communities in insecure and hard-to-reach areas. Third, UNICEF will facilitate preparedness and contingency planning, while further integrating humanitarian action and development programming and emphasizing quick transitions to durable solutions. Across all pillars, the response will increase access to and quality of education for crisis-affected school-aged children. Conflict-affected children will receive comprehensive child protection services, and communities affected by population movements will access safe water and sanitation facilities. UNICEF leads the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and nutrition clusters/sectors and the child protection working group.

Results from 2019

As of 31 August 2019, UNICEF had US\$24 million available against the US\$45.9 million appeal (52 per cent funded).⁷ Due to insecurity and significant funding shortfalls, health, protection and education targets have not yet been reached. UNICEF responded to chronic and acute needs by delivering an integrated package of services in nutrition, WASH, cholera prevention, education, essential household items, health and child protection. Partnerships with the Government, non-governmental organizations and community groups were crucial to working in hard-to-reach areas. As a result, nearly 207,000 children with SAM received therapeutic feeding and nearly 317,000 children were vaccinated against measles. Nearly 389,000 people at risk of waterborne diseases received hygiene kits or benefited from hygiene promotion and sensitization campaigns. Over 24,000 children under 5 years gained access to life-saving health services through fixed, mobile and community-based activities. More than 30,000 children received learning materials and teacher training on psychosocial support was critical to improving normalcy for over 20,500 children who have experienced violence and displacement. More than 2,700 children benefited from direct psychosocial support. Under UNICEF technical leadership, the Rapid Response Mechanism conducted 115 assessments and delivered multi-sectoral assistance, including essential household and shelter items, to nearly 48,000 people.

Total people in need

2.9 million⁸

Total children (<18) in need

1.6 million⁹

Total people to be reached

796,400¹⁰

Total children to be reached

622,100¹¹

2020 programme targets

Nutrition

- 381,700 children under 5 years affected by SAM admitted for treatment

Health

- 110,000 children aged 6 months to 14 years vaccinated against measles
- 100,000 children have access to life-saving health interventions through fixed, mobile and community-based activities

WASH

- 97,000 people affected by population movements and natural disasters have access to safe drinking water and sanitation
- 415,000 people at risk of waterborne diseases have access to hygiene kits and sensitization

Child protection

- 30,500 children accessing psychosocial support, including through child-friendly spaces
- 800 community-based child protection workers have collaborated with gender-based violence actors to disseminate knowledge on referral pathways and services for child survivors
- 105,000 displaced children are informed about child protection risks and protection mechanisms

Education

- 34,400 crisis-affected out-of-school children accessing education
- 155,000 children who received individual learning materials

Non-food items/shelter

- 143,500 people affected by conflict or natural disasters who received essential household items

	Sector 2019 targets	Sector total results	UNICEF 2019 targets	UNICEF total results
NUTRITION				
Children under 5 years suffering from SAM admitted into therapeutic feeding programmes	380,166	206,621	380,166	206,621
HEALTH				
Children under 5 years accessing life-saving interventions through fixed, mobile and community-based activities ⁱ			125,000	24,479
Children aged 6 months to 14 years vaccinated against measles ⁱⁱ			100,000	316,703
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE				
People affected by population movements and natural disasters accessing safe drinking water	168,600	117,116	120,000	67,861
People at risk of waterborne disease outbreaks accessing hygiene kits and sensitization activities	905,183	390,708	459,000	388,713
CHILD PROTECTION				
Children reached with psychosocial support outside of schools, including access to child-friendly spaces	75,000	8,695	25,000	2,727
Children affected by population movements benefiting from sensitization activities on child protection risks	174,240	15,184	89,000	4,497
EDUCATION				
Crisis-affected out-of-school children (aged 4 to 17 years) accessing education	136,700	23,366	68,300	11,853
Crisis-affected children (aged 4 to 17 years) receiving learning materials	219,000	33,793	116,800	30,108
NON-FOOD ITEMS				
People affected by conflict or natural disasters who received essential household and/or shelter items			101,500	47,887

^{*} Results are as of 31 August 2019.

ⁱ Underachievement is due to the late arrival of funding in 2019 and long lead times for medical offshore procurements.

ⁱⁱ The 2019 measles outbreak required ramping up vaccination activities beyond the planned targets.

Funding requirements

UNICEF and partners will need US\$62.2 million to deliver critical humanitarian aid in the Niger in 2020. If these funds are not mobilized, vulnerable children suffering from violence, displacement and trauma will not have access to the multi-sectoral assistance and protection they critically need. An increase in non- or under-vaccinated children and lack of focus on the prevention of disease outbreaks will lead to increasing child morbidity and mortality. Funding for preparedness and flexible intervention capacity is vital for UNICEF to respond to new crises when no other actor is able to deliver in the sectors under UNICEF's leadership.

Sector	2020 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	26,460,000
Health	1,410,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene ¹²	9,103,000
Child protection ¹³	4,212,000
Education ¹⁴	12,635,000
Non-food items/shelter ¹⁵	7,183,000
Cluster/sector coordination ¹⁶	1,188,000
Total¹⁷	62,191,000

¹ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Niger: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, 2019.

² This includes 120,619 refugees (56 per cent children) and 111,058 internally displaced persons (57 per cent children). Direction Régionale de l'Etat Civil, 'Situation des Personnes Déplacées – Niger', December 2019.

³ In total, 111 schools and 6,691 pupils are affected in Tillabéri region. Direction régionale de l'enseignement primaire, Tillabéri, December 2019. There were 80,844 internally displaced persons in December 2019 (Direction Régionale de l'enregistrement Civil, December 2019 and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 'Mali Situation Overview', UNHCR, December 2019); versus 53,510 internally displaced persons in December 2018 (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 'Country Operation Updates – Niger', UNHCR, December 2018).

⁴ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 'Refugees - Niger Maradi Region (as of December 31st)', UNHCR, 2019.

⁵ Government of the Niger Ministry of Home Affairs, Disaster Management Directorate, November 2019; and 'Niger: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.

⁶ Forty-nine children were abducted in Diffa between January and July 2019, including 40 girls. United Nations Children's Fund, 'Tableau des incidents MRM', UNICEF, June/July 2019; and Diffa Child Protection Working Group, 'Note sur les cas d'enlèvement des personnes', June 2019.

⁷ Available funds include US\$14.1 million received against the 2019 appeal and US\$9.9 million carried forward from the previous year.

⁸ This includes 1.5 million women (63,000 with disabilities) and 1.4 million men (58,800 with disabilities). 'Niger: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft).

⁹ This includes 816,000 girls (34,272 with disabilities) and 784,000 boys (32,928 with disabilities). 'Niger: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft).

¹⁰ This includes the total number of children to be reached (see endnote 11) and the adults covered by the WASH/hygiene target (174,300). This includes 406,200 women/girls (16,700 with disabilities) and 390,200 men/boys (16,400 with disabilities).

¹¹ This includes the overall nutrition target (381,700); children aged 4 to 17 in Maradi (7,000), Diffa (51,000), Tahoua and Tillabéri (85,000) receiving education materials (143,500); and children aged 5 to 17 outside of these regions who will be covered by WASH/hygiene activities (96,900). Children aged 4 to 17 who are victims of floods (11,500) receiving education materials and WASH activities have not been counted in the education target to avoid double counting (155,000-11,500). The total includes 317,300 girls (13,000 with disabilities) and 304,800 boys (12,800 with disabilities).

¹² The funding requirement increased compared with 2019 due to a switch to durable/sustainable water supply solutions, which are expensive and supply intensive (e.g., piped water supply systems connected to deep boreholes). Moreover, large parts of the Tillabéri, Tahoua and Maradi regions have rocky soil, so drilling needs to go deep and is expensive.

¹³ The higher funding requirement is due to increased projected needs for alternative care and reintegration of children and the new Maradi crisis where child protection-in-emergencies activities need to be set up from scratch, and where the Government and local capacities need to be strengthened.

¹⁴ The funding requirement increased to strengthen the linkages between humanitarian action and development programming. For example, emergency classrooms will be constructed so that they can be gradually transformed into permanent classrooms. Similarly, latrines will be constructed durably instead of temporarily. Moreover, new activities will be introduced under the "safe school" umbrella, such as school-level risk analysis, preparedness and risk reduction plans and the participation of pupils in school governance. And given that more and more schools are closing in conflict areas, radio education programmes will be rolled out to include Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabéri.

¹⁵ The non-food item/shelter budget increase is a result of a programme target increase from 101,500 (2019) to 143,500 (2020) people, reflecting developments in Maradi and Diffa. The kit composition has also changed and is now more comprehensive and therefore more expensive.

¹⁶ The new crisis in Maradi, the increasing needs in Diffa, Tillabéri and Tahoua, and a country office decentralization initiative mean that more senior UNICEF staff need to be based in field offices to help with decentralized coordination. This has increased the funding requirements.

¹⁷ The funding requirement increased as expanded/comprehensive services are planned for the same beneficiaries (such as integrated protection programmes in schools) and/or temporary structures are being replaced by more sustainable structures (e.g., classrooms, toilets, water systems). The aim is to strengthen linkages with development programming to improve the quality of services and reduce the need for repeat interventions and operation and maintenance costs. In the mid- and long-term, this will be more cost-efficient.

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