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Niger

The Niger faces acute and chronic humanitarian crises that are unlikely to improve in the coming years. In 2019, 50 per cent of people in need in the Niger will be located in the three regions affected by population movement—Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabéry.¹ While fewer people (nearly 25,000) are expected to be displaced in Diffa Region than in previous years, the fragile security and humanitarian situations at the borders with Burkina Faso and Mali (Tillabéry and Tahoua regions) are expected to worsen. An estimated 100,000 additional people may be displaced in 2019, adding to the 48,000 already displaced. Across the country, 2.3 million people, including 1.3 million children, will require humanitarian assistance in 2019. Over 380,000 children are at risk of severe acute malnutrition (SAM),² 99,000 children are at risk due to flooding and 600,000 children are at risk due to epidemics such as measles, cholera and meningitis. Needs will be acute in the regions bordering Burkina Faso and Mali, where vulnerabilities were high prior to the emergency³ and have been heightened by crisis and population movement. While a civil-military coordination mechanism was created in 2018, major physical and security constraints continue to impede humanitarian access in Tillabéry and Tahoua.

Humanitarian strategy

In 2019, UNICEF will respond to both chronic and acute crises in the Niger. The linkages between humanitarian action and development programming will be strengthened and operationalized, particularly in the Diffa region, and emergency capacity to respond to acute crises will be improved through the strengthened Rapid Response Mechanism. In Tahoua and Tillabéry regions, strategic partnerships and innovative community-based approaches will help UNICEF and partners overcome access challenges and reach vulnerable populations with multi-sectoral support. UNICEF will continue to strengthen national health and nutrition systems to deliver services in emergencies, including SAM prevention and treatment, measles and polio vaccination and free health care for children under 5 years. UNICEF will prioritize increasing access to quality school services for children affected by crises and building the resilience of schools. Conflict-affected children will receive comprehensive child protection services. The cholera prevention package will be strengthened and access to safe water will include both immediate and durable solutions. UNICEF will maintain its preparedness capacity through contingency stocks, partnerships and human and financial resources; and a cash transfer strategy will be developed and implemented. Efforts will also focus on strengthening coordination and leveraging resources for prevention and risk mitigation.

Results from 2018

As of 31 October 2018, UNICEF had US\$27.7 million available against the US\$42.7 million appeal (65 per cent funded).⁴ In education, limited funding, delays in salary payment for contract teachers (84 per cent of all teachers in the Diffa region) and difficulties faced by the Regional Directorate for Primary Education in upgrading existing temporary learning spaces, all contributed to low school enrollment. In child protection, while 70 per cent of funding was available and used to maintain child-friendly spaces in Diffa, there were fewer new admissions than anticipated due to decreasing population movements. In the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) response, the provision of sustainable access to drinking water in Kidjandi for 17,000 people made it possible to end the costly water trucking operation after nearly two years. In health, the measles target was over-achieved, due to higher investments in operational costs instead of costly medicines. The Rapid Response Mechanism assisted 82 per cent of people displaced due to the Mali crisis, demonstrating its comparative value in the response to population movements.

Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

Total people in need:
2.3 million⁵

Total children (<18) in need:
1.26 million⁶

Total people to be reached:
880,200⁷

Total children to be reached:
640,000⁸

2019 programme targets:

Nutrition

- 380,166 children under 5 years with SAM admitted into therapeutic feeding programmes

Health

- 125,000 children under 5 years accessing life-saving interventions through fixed, mobile and community-based activities⁹
- 100,000 children aged 6 months to 14 years in humanitarian situations vaccinated against measles¹⁰

WASH

- 120,000 people affected by population movements and natural disasters accessing drinking water
- 459,000 people affected by an outbreak of water-borne disease accessing hygiene kits and sensitization activities

Child protection

- 25,000 children reached with psychosocial support, including access to child-friendly spaces
- 89,000 children affected by population movements benefiting from sensitization activities on child protection risks

Education

- 68,300 girls and boys aged 4 to 17 years who are out of school and affected by crisis accessing education
- 116,800 girls and boys aged 4 to 17 years affected by crisis receiving learning materials

Non-food items and shelter

- 101,500 people affected by conflict or natural disasters provided with essential household items and emergency shelters

	Sector 2018 targets	Sector total results	UNICEF 2018 targets	UNICEF total results
NUTRITION				
Children under 5 years with SAM admitted for treatment nationwide	380,166	283,293	380,166	283,293
HEALTH				
Children under 5 years accessing life-saving interventions through fixed and mobile strategies			103,500	92,082
Children aged 6 months to 14 years vaccinated against measles			71,732	158,285
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE				
People affected by population movements and natural disasters having access to drinking water	266,860	130,608	160,400	53,570 ⁱ
People affected by water-borne disease outbreaks having access to hygiene kits and sensitization activities	706,528	634,091	200,000	314,130
CHILD PROTECTION				
Children provided with psychosocial support through community-based recreational and socio-educational activities	248,824	25,159	38,136	5,373
EDUCATION				
Girls and boys aged 3 to 17 years provided with access to formal and non-formal education	185,478	14,759	95,611	14,736
NON-FOOD ITEMS				
People affected by conflict or natural disasters provided with non-food items kits			140,000	49,126

Results are through 31 October 2018. The results refer to crises included in the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan and the contingency plan for the Mali crisis. While the cluster results do not include the Mali crisis, UNICEF has included the results for the Mali crisis in the 2018 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for all sectors.

ⁱ Water trucking services have been provided for the same people since June 2016. This result covers the Lake Chad basin crisis, as well as the crisis at the border with Mali.

Funding requirements

In line with the country level multi-year inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan (2019-2021), UNICEF is requesting US\$45.9 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children affected by several crises in the Niger in 2019. Without flexible funding, UNICEF will be unable to support the national response to the nutrition crisis and provide critical WASH, non-food items, health, education and child protection services to people affected by displacements, natural disasters and epidemics. This funding will also enable UNICEF to maintain contingency and preparedness capacities in all sectors for flexible, rapid responses to acute crises, and implement innovative strategies.

Sector	2019 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	24,500,000
Health	1,648,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	6,040,000
Child protection	3,066,419
Education	4,984,281
Non-food items and shelter	4,702,386
Cluster/sector coordination	1,000,000
Total	45,941,086

¹ Unless otherwise noted, all figures cited in this paragraph are from: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Niger: 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft), OCHA, 2018. The Humanitarian Needs Overview document was not finalized/published at the time of writing this appeal. The appeal will be updated to be aligned with the published Humanitarian Needs Overview, once finalized.

² These are temporary figures from the 2018 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for the Niger and the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan for the Niger. While the national Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) survey results have just been released, the necessary analysis of the results, which allows for the joint definition of the new targets by the cluster and with the Government is not yet complete.

³ According to the Regional Index For Risk Management, the Sahel, 2015, 2016 and 2017; and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Emergency Response and Preparedness Group, managed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

⁴ Available funds include US\$24 million received against the 2018 appeal and US\$3.8 million carried forward from the previous year. This includes US\$19.4 million for nutrition.

⁵ 'Niger: 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft).

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Based on the overall Sahel nutrition target (347,381 children under 5 years countrywide) + the Lake Chad basin (Diffa region) target for health (the sector with the highest target for Diffa, 90,000 children) + 45 per cent adults (20,250) of the WASH target for Diffa + the highest coverage WASH target (60,000) for the Mali crisis + the cholera target countrywide (362,610 people) excluding the number of children under 5 years (96,390) to avoid double counting. This total is 880,241, rounded down to 880,200.

⁸ Based on the Sahel nutrition target (347,381 children under 5 years countrywide) + the Lake Chad Basin (Diffa region) target for health (the sector with the highest target for Diffa, 90,000 children) + the education target (46,600) for the Mali crisis + the children in the cholera target for children (156,060 children) countrywide (55 per cent of 459,000 people excluding the number of children under 5 years to avoid double counting). This total is 640,041, rounded down to 640,000.

⁹ Targets for the Lake Chad basin and Mali crises.

¹⁰ Nationwide intervention.

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