



UNICEF/Niger/2023/Isamane

People affected by forced displacement due to conflict in Tahoua Region, Niger, pick up essential household items at a distribution site. UNICEF supports the most vulnerable people, ensuring dignity.

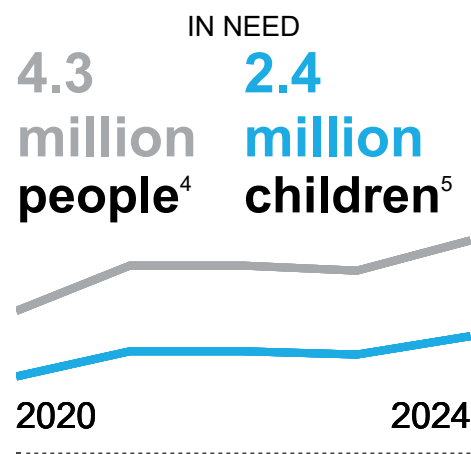
**unicef**   
for every child

## Humanitarian Action for Children

# Niger

### HIGHLIGHTS<sup>1</sup>

- The Niger continues to face a combination of crises: persistent armed conflicts, climate-induced disasters, nutritional emergencies and epidemics, all of which have been exacerbated by political instability following a military coup in late July 2023. In 2024, an estimated 4.3 million<sup>2</sup> people, including 2.4 million<sup>3</sup> children, will require humanitarian aid.
- 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 in the design of all programmes.
- UNICEF requires \$109.7 million to provide multisectoral life-saving assistance to vulnerable children and women (including people living with disabilities) affected by humanitarian crises. The nutrition, education, health and child protection sectors make up 75.2 per cent of this funding requirement.



### KEY PLANNED TARGETS



**436,348**  
children with severe wasting admitted for treatment



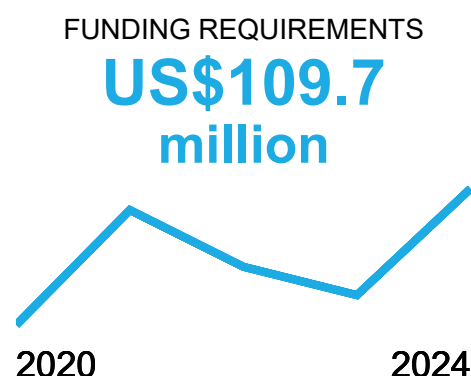
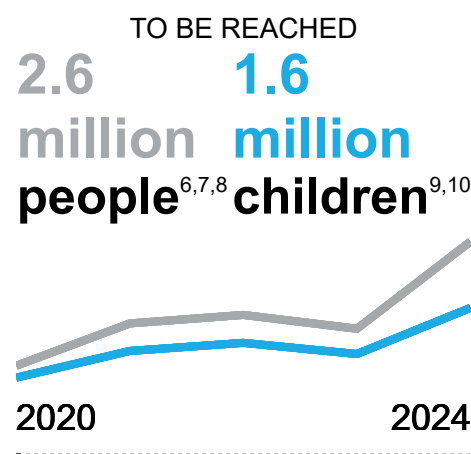
**390,000**  
women and children accessing gender-based violence mitigation, prevention, response



**395,100**  
children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning



**239,200**  
people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water



Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents for 2024.

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Forced displacement in the Niger triggered by conflict, malnutrition, recurrent health epidemics, cyclical floods and drought has placed 4.3 million people,<sup>11</sup> including 2.4 million children, in need of humanitarian assistance in 2024. Insecurity makes many of those in need hard to reach with humanitarian assistance.

Armed conflicts continued to afflict the areas of the country that border Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Nigeria, primarily impacting residents in Diffa, Maradi, Tillabéri and Tahoua Regions. Hostilities among parties to the conflict and attacks by non-state armed groups have displaced more than 660,000 people.<sup>12</sup>

The Niger is one of the most vulnerable countries to various shocks, including climate hazards (floods), epidemics, insecurity and a migration crisis.<sup>13</sup> At the same time, community resilience is low due to a rate of extreme poverty of 44 per cent.<sup>14</sup> Political and economic sanctions put in place following a military coup in July 2023 have worsened this situation: restricted access to banking services and trade have led to price increases for essential goods, making it difficult for families to meet their basic needs. This comes while more than 2.3 million<sup>15</sup> people are already food insecure, with 436,348 children<sup>16</sup> aged 6–59 months requiring treatment for severe wasting.

Several epidemics have been recorded in 2023, including measles, malaria, meningitis and diphtheria (more than 1,000 reported cases and 69 deaths).<sup>17</sup> As of 9 October 2023, more than 161,000 individuals<sup>18</sup> had been left with significant needs due to floods (which also caused 52 deaths). And flooding and displacement only heighten WASH needs, with 1.5 million<sup>19</sup> people requiring access to safe water.

Additionally 444,290 students<sup>20</sup> (52 per cent girls and 4.2 per cent children with disabilities) are in need of emergency education assistance. As of 1 September 2023, 987 schools remained closed due to insecurity, mainly in Tillabéri Region, where 93 per cent of schools were closed.<sup>21</sup> The security crisis in the country has also led to an increase in grave violations committed against children in the Niger, including abductions, killing and maiming,<sup>22</sup> and 1,085,458<sup>23</sup> children require child protection services.

The Niger remains a significant transit hub for migration to Europe, with thousands of people passing through Agadez Region annually. Many migrants, among them unaccompanied and separated children, arrive in precarious situations and once arrived face dangers and exploitation.

## SECTOR NEEDS



**1.4 million** people in need of health assistance<sup>24,25</sup>



**2.3 million** people in need of nutrition assistance<sup>26</sup>



**1.1 million** children in need of protection services<sup>27</sup>



**444,290** children in need of access to school<sup>28</sup>



**1.6 million** people lack access to safe water<sup>29</sup>

## STORY FROM THE FIELD



"Look at this girl, she was brought to us, having been found in the riverbed of a kori,"<sup>30</sup> says Ali Haro. "She had been dropped there to be swept away by the current and fall down the cliff. A child is a child, no matter where he or she comes from. The aim is to relieve suffering."

Ali Haro's family is one of 300 host families in the Niger that provide temporary emergency accommodation for children. Eleven foster families are currently active in Zinder, monitored by social workers from the regional and local authorities. To strengthen child protection, UNICEF funded 127 social workers in the 64 Protection Services under the supervision of the Regional Directorates for protection activities.

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

Ali Yaro, head of the Ali Yaro neighbourhood in Zinder, Niger, stands with children in distress he has taken in with the help of child protection services and the financial support of UNICEF.



UNICEF's humanitarian strategy involves multisectoral, integrated interventions in health, nutrition, water, hygiene, sanitation, child protection, education, social protection and mental health and psychosocial support, primarily in regions affected by the crises. UNICEF's strong field presence and technical expertise will facilitate rapid deployment of emergency responses in line with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action.

Within the Rapid Response Mechanism, UNICEF leads technical coordination, procurement, monitoring, multisectoral assessments, pre-positioning of contingency stocks, expansion of multipurpose humanitarian cash transfers and readiness for emergencies. A humanitarian–development–peace nexus approach has been adopted to link humanitarian assistance and development initiatives.

UNICEF's health strategy aims to ensure access and continuity of health and immunization services (measles and diphtheria response) through the organization of mobile clinics in hard-to-reach areas, including training, and the provision of medicines and emergency consumables. Life-saving treatment of severe wasting is a priority through a health system strengthening strategy as well as sectoral coordination; prevention interventions include screening of children for wasting and improvement of breastfeeding and dietary diversity in children, adolescent girls and pregnant women. WASH interventions will enhance the resilience of 447,200 vulnerable people, including women and girls, and include promotion of hygiene practices, access to basic sanitation and provision of safe drinking water, and tailored cholera prevention efforts. UNICEF also aims to provide sustainable solutions for water supply and sanitation.

UNICEF provides quality, inclusive education to children in emergencies by distributing learning materials; training teachers; installing temporary learning spaces for internally displaced people; promoting skills development programmes for adolescents, including mentoring programmes for girls; and strengthening community members' capacity for providing safe and secure learning environments.

UNICEF will enhance child protection<sup>34</sup> and mental health support, focusing on safeguarding children from armed groups and from the effects of crises, preventing gender-based violence and providing care for survivors. UNICEF will also improve data on violations, reunite separated children with family and strengthen partner capacity for emergency response in conflict-affected regions.

UNICEF will strengthen community-based mechanisms, including working with local organizations, to reach those in hard-to-reach areas.

Cross-cutting strategies will dovetail with UNICEF's accountability to affected populations framework: UNICEF will bolster accountability to children and work closely with community leaders, the Government and non-governmental organizations using a risk management plan to ensure zero tolerance for fraud, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse during cash transfers. UNICEF will also continue to support greater shock-responsiveness of the national social protection system.

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 (including public health emergencies)

- **250,000** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities<sup>36</sup>
- **100,100** children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against measles
- **1,000,000** children aged 1 to 14 years vaccinated against diphtheria



## Nutrition

- **700,000** children 6-59 months screened for wasting
- **436,348** children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- **800,000** primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling<sup>37</sup>
- **230,000** children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder or Small-Quantity Lipid Nutrition Supplement



## Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **122,500** children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- **390,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **180,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- **16,700** unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified



## Education

- **395,100** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning<sup>38</sup>
- **375,100** children receiving individual learning materials<sup>39</sup>
- **10,000** children and adolescents accessing skills development programmes
- **2,500** schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)



## Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **239,200** people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- **447,200** people accessing hygiene kits and hygiene promotion including training/awareness on cholera disease
- **130,000** people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- **55,088** malnourished children admitted for moderate or severe acute malnutrition and benefiting from a WASH minimum package



## Social protection

- **27,000** households benefitting from new or additional social assistance (cash/in-kind) measures from government-funded programmes with UNICEF technical assistance support<sup>40</sup>



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

- **5,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers (including for social protection and other sectors)
- **12,000,000** affected people (children, caregivers, community members) reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services<sup>41</sup>
- **60,000** people engaged in reflective dialogue through community platforms
- **100,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms



## Rapid response mechanism

- **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.

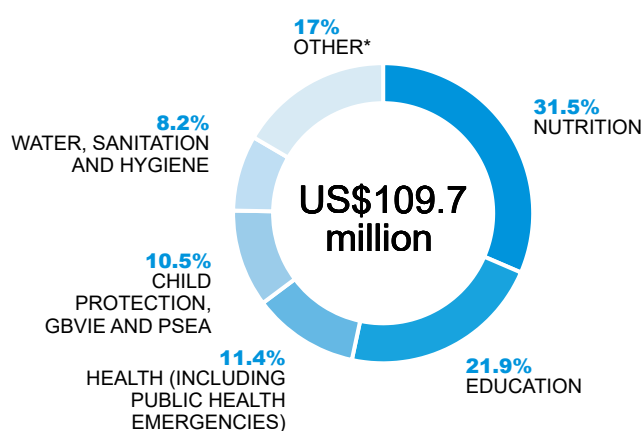
# FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

UNICEF requires \$109.7 million in 2024 to provide life-saving multisectoral assistance to vulnerable children and women affected by violence and trauma due to ongoing humanitarian crises in the Niger. This is 51 per cent higher than the 2023 requirement due to an increase in the number of people impacted by epidemics, forced displacement, armed conflict, drought and political unrest, as well as sharp increases in operational costs.

Without sufficient funding, UNICEF will be unable to reach 1,643,661 children and 970,370 adults, including 363,000 displaced and refugee children with conflict-related needs and 88,550 vulnerable children affected by floods. Nutrition funding requirements have increased compared with previous years due to the addition to the nutrition response of small-quantity lipid-based nutrient supplements for 115,000 children aged 6–23 months (for \$2.3 million) as a preventive intervention against malnutrition, and also due to a greater reliance on air freight for supply movements to ensure the treatment of about 107,000 severely wasted children (\$11.5 million is for air freight).

For the 2024 appeal, out-of-school children have been included in the target population which, combined with a more challenging context, has increased the education budget to \$24 million, up from \$12 million in the 2023 appeal. Similarly, the response to an ongoing diphtheria epidemic has led to a doubling of the health budget.

Emergency needs in the Niger have continued to rise in recent years due to conflict, forced displacement and reduced access to social services in hard-to-reach areas. 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 country, and to prepare and respond strategically where needs are greatest.



\*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Rapid response mechanism (7.1%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (4.3%), Social protection (3.6%), Cluster coordination (1.5%).

Sector	2024 requirements (US\$)
Health (including public health emergencies)	12,553,374 <sup>42</sup>
Nutrition	34,500,000
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	11,500,000 <sup>43</sup>
Education	24,000,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	8,944,000
Social protection	4,000,000 <sup>44</sup>
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	4,740,000 <sup>45</sup>
Rapid response mechanism	7,821,500
Cluster coordination	1,601,900 <sup>46</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>109,660,774</b>

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## ENDNOTES

1. UNICEF extended its Corporate Emergency Level 2 Scale-up Procedure for the Sahel Crisis for the following period: 19 July 2022 – 19 December 2023. The status will be reviewed on that date. 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.
2. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Niger Humanitarian Response Plan 2023.
3. Ibid.
4. OCHA, Niger Humanitarian Response Plan 2023. This figure will be updated in December 2023, when the Niger Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024 is validated.
5. Ibid. This figure will be updated in December 2023, when the Niger Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024 is validated.
6. This figure will be updated in December 2023, when the Niger Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024 is validated.
7. Calculated based on the following: 140,000 children between 6 months and 1 year of age and 800,000 adult women to be reached by the nutrition sector; 1 million children aged 1–14 years to be immunized against diphtheria; 9,091 children under 6 months of age to be reached by health sector; 395,100 children over age 14 years to be reached by the education sector, not included in the target of the health sector; 98,340 adult males to be reached by the WASH sector, not included in the target of other sectors; and 171,500 adults to be reached with essential household items assistance who are not included in the counting of the targets for the other sectors. The total number of people to be reached includes 1,333,156 women and girls and 109,790 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 higher than in 2023 because of the inclusion of the diphtheria target in response to the epidemic situation. Furthermore, there has been a doubling of targets related to nutrition and education.
8. 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.
9. This figure will be updated in December 2023, when the Niger Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024 is validated.
10. The number of children to be reached is higher than in 2023 because of the inclusion of the diphtheria target in response to the epidemic situation. Furthermore, there has been a doubling of targets related education.
11. OCHA, Niger Humanitarian Response Plan 2023.
12. UNHCR, September 2023.
13. European Commission, Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre, INFORM model of risk analysis, available at <<https://drm.kc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Risk/Risk-Facts-Figures>>.
14. The World Bank, The World Bank in Niger: Overview, 2023, available at <[www.worldbank.org/en/country/niger/overview](http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/niger/overview)>.
15. OCHA, Niger Humanitarian Response Plan 2023.
16. OCHA, Niger Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024 (draft estimates).
17. Ministère de la Santé Publique, October 2023.
18. Ministère de l'action humanitaire et de la gestion des catastrophes, October, 2023.
19. OCHA, Niger Humanitarian Response Plan 2023.
20. OCHA, Niger Humanitarian Response Plan 2023.
21. Other regions affected are Diffa, Maradi and Tahoua.
22. Gender-based violence is also a serious concern, with 43 per cent of survivors being children.
23. OCHA, Niger Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024 (draft estimates from the Child Protection Area of Responsibility).
24. OCHA, Niger Humanitarian Response Plan 2023.
25. Data are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.
26. OCHA, Niger Humanitarian Response Plan 2023.
27. OCHA, Niger Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024 (draft estimates from the Child Protection Area of Responsibility). The increase in the number of people in need compared with 2023 is due to the inclusion of additional departments in the assessment and the escalating severity of the crisis.
28. OCHA, Niger Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024 (draft estimates).
29. OCHA, Niger Humanitarian Response Plan 2023.
30. River valley.
31. 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.
32. 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.
33. 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.
34. 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) a mental health response and integrated psychosocial support for children affected by the ongoing humanitarian crises; 3) mitigation and prevention of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, and intervention services for 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.
35. Beyond the UNICEF targets for these interventions, other humanitarian partners are expected to reach the remaining children/families in need.
36. Due to the current crisis (political instability and insecurity) as well as the resurgence of outbreaks, the estimate of affected children has increased.
37. The increase in the number of people targeted compared with 2023 is due to the expanded coverage linked to the addition of new departments.
38. The increase of the target compared to the previous year is due to the inclusion of out-school children in the target population.
39. Idem.
40. In 2024, UNICEF will accelerate its cash transfer programme.
41. The population targeted is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.
42. The budget has increased due to the current diphtheria outbreak.
43. This line item includes \$10,005,000 for child protection interventions; \$1,150,000 for gender-based violence in emergencies interventions; and \$345,000 for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse interventions.
44. The assistance will be delivered through the social protection system.
45. This line item includes \$4 million for social and behaviour change activities and \$740,000 for humanitarian cash transfers.
46. UNICEF will allocate \$400,475 each to support the coordination of the Education, Child Protection, and WASH Clusters, along with the nutrition technical group.