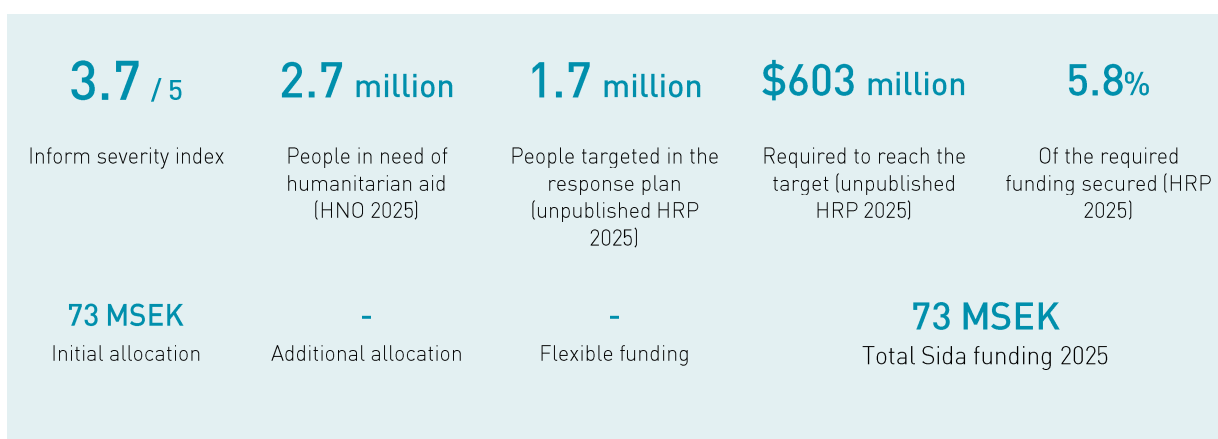


1. Crisis overviewⁱ



The population of Niger is facing multifaceted shocks caused by localised insecurity and violence, climate hazards (cyclical droughts and floods), epidemics, as well as chronic food insecurity and malnutrition, with a dangerous overlap between severe food insecurity and localised conflicts. The number of forcibly displaced persons keeps increasing, mostly due to insecurity-driven internal displacements (20 per cent increase since 2023). The most affected areas in terms of protection risks are the tri-border area as well as the Lake Chad basin. Additionally, Niger experienced large-scale floods in 2024 affecting communities in several regions, with over 1.4 million people directly impacted by floods.

The unconstitutional transition in July 2023 led to political and economic sanctions (among which border closure and suspension of development aid), with major cuts in the State budget and severe consequences for an already vulnerable population (Niger is ranking 189/191 on the Human Development Index).

While no Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) was published in 2024, the estimated number of people in need of humanitarian assistance was 4.5 million, with a target of 2.7 million individuals for the response. The estimates for 2025 (unpublished HNRP) show a reduction in people in need as a result of a change in the methodology (boundary setting). In parallel, the humanitarian response is facing increasing constraints, struggling to secure access and deliver assistance where it is most needed.

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

Niger had an estimated 4.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in 2024 which represents an increase compared to 2023 (4.3 million), mostly due to displacements in the Tillabéri, Tahoua, Diffa and Maradi regions. There is an overlap between locations affected by armed attacks and areas affected by food insecurity and where grave protection concerns are reported, which also coincide with hard-to-reach areas. Over 975,000 persons are forcibly displaced by February 2025, among which over 507,000 are internally displaced persons (IDPs). This is an increase from 404,000 in 2023.

Violence, forced displacements, food production deficit and inflation are worsening food insecurity and a protracted poor nutrition situation amongst children. The November 2024 “Cadre Harmonisé” identified that 5.6 per cent of the total population were severely food insecure, representing some improvement compared with the previous analysis.. Diffa and Tillabéri regions are the most affected, and they are also the regions hosting the majority of forcibly displaced persons. No SMART survey has been conducted since 2022, but admissions in intensive care units suggested an increase in severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 2024 compared with 2023. Partners have observed that vulnerable families are adopting negative coping strategies to handle the food security crisis, including child marriages as well as children and youth joining armed groups. Women and girls are particularly exposed to gender-based violence (GBV). There are also growing intercommunal tensions over access to land and food production, in part due to demographic pressure in areas hosting IDP’s and refugees, in part due to climate change. 83 per cent of refugees and 80 per cent of IDPs are women and children. The region of Tillabéri alone hosted over 302,000 forcibly displaced people as of July 2024. Diffa is both a major area of displacement and return, mostly due to insecurity in the area of displacement. Niger also hosts more than 364,000 refugees, mostly from Nigeria. 90 per cent of IDPs fled due to insecurity. A recent trend is the use of explosive devices by non-state armed groups (NSAGs). While they are targeting the national defence forces, they also cause civilian casualties. Overall, it is estimated that 1.2 million people in Niger were exposed to protection risks in 2024.

The 2023 political crisis and subsequent sanctions and border closures have led to increasing food prices and supply chain challenges. Additionally, a substantial part of international development aid was suspended, including State budget support, while humanitarian assistance has largely been maintained though at insufficient levels. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) lifted most of its sanctions in February 2024. Unfortunately, this did not result in improved access to the country, and Burkina Faso remains the only accepted entry point for humanitarian supplies. The situation has both short-term and longer-term consequences on the vulnerability of the population and impacts the capacity to address pressing needs. A number of areas in need of assistance remain out of reach for most actors. Floods are a recurring weather hazard in the country. In 2024, they have affected 1.4 million people, including in areas already affected by ongoing crises, impacting their livelihoods, and causing localised cholera outbreaks.

3. The humanitarian response

The humanitarian strategy in Niger is based both on the National Support Plan and on the UN-led Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), which complement one another when it comes to nutrition and food security. The Government is engaged in the humanitarian coordination and response through two major actors: the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Crisis Management and the Dispositif National de Prévention et de Gestion des Catastrophes et Crises Alimentaires (Dispositif). The Dispositif provided food support to one million people in 2024 with a one-month ration. The suspension of development aid may limit the country's capacity to maintain their level of support, and add to the caseload for other actors.

The HRP 2024, largely underfunded (51.8 per cent), focused on reducing morbidity and mortality in the most affected areas, improved access to essential services, including protection, as well as strengthening the resilience of people in the conflict affected areas. Only four clusters reached a level of funding of 50 per cent and above: shelter/ non-food items (NFIs), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and logistics. The funding level for protection was 26.6 per cent and 22.9 per cent for health in 2024. The top humanitarian donors in 2024 were the US government, ECHO and Germany. Sweden was the 8th largest bilateral humanitarian donor country. The global freeze and scale-back of US humanitarian funding announced in January 2025 is having major consequences on aid operations, as the US government humanitarian funding represented over 42% of the HRP in 2024. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) is adapting the response in light of the new funding landscape.

A Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) is implemented by Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) partners, with a degree of geographical and sectorial complementarity (though lacking a protection lens), under the leadership of the Minister for Humanitarian Affairs. The RRM addresses critical needs of IDPs identified through multisector assessments, for a 3-month period, and a minimum threshold of 50 households, with technical support from UNICEF.

Disruptions in the delivery of humanitarian assistance are being observed since the military coup. Beyond funding shortfalls caused by the suspension of development assistance by many donors, border closures and the necessity to identify new routes for humanitarian supplies have hampered the delivery of services, and alternative options have been costly. UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) is offering the only viable way to reach the main Nigerien cities, as travel by road is restricted in areas of military operations, with the indiscriminate imposition of armed escorts.

Insecurity has impaired access to affected communities in areas of operations against NSAGs, particularly along the Malian border. Sustained access of humanitarian actors to affected communities, particularly in areas of military operations but not only, remains challenging, and the humanitarian community has not been able to speak with one voice when it comes to the use of armed escorts. The first responders in Niger largely remain the communities themselves.

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

Given the increased humanitarian needs and protection concerns in Niger, the focus of Sida's support is on addressing the most urgent and severe needs through conflict-sensitive multisectoral approaches. Programmes should foster a protective environment, given the disproportionate effects of insecurity on civilians, especially women and children. Sida will seek to address critical underfunding in key sectors such as health and protection. An emphasis is placed on areas seeing overlapping insecurity and food insecurity, the latter being the main concern expressed by affected persons.

Modalities used by partners are adapted to the location and region of work, the security situation with a combination of cash and in-kind assistance, supported by flexible funding. Restrictions on the use of cash assistance have been locally observed in 2024. Partners with sustained presence in the most affected areas as well as continuous access to hard-to-reach areas in Tillabéri, Tahoua, Diffa and Maradi, with a capacity for rapid mobilization, are prioritised. Selected partners are active in coordination mechanisms and contribute to the HCT work on access and humanitarian principles as well as in the different clusters.

All selected partners are assessing and addressing protection risks (including GBV and land-related issues) and have the capacity to act upon a severe deterioration of the humanitarian situation or a sudden onset crisis, while exploring modalities that foster resilience (notably through community-based approaches), in collaboration with local actors.

INITIAL ALLOCATION (SEK)		
PARTNER	SECTOR	INITIAL ALLOCATION
AAH	FSL, health, nutrition, WASH, GBV	12,000,000
ICRC	Protection, FSL, health, WASH, shelter	3,000,000
IRC	Protection, WASH, education, FSL	10,000,000
NRC	FSL, protection/ICLA, education, WASH	20,000,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, health, protection, education, WASH	15,000,000
WFP	FSL, nutrition, logistics	12,000,000
GTH-OIREN (INGO forum)	Coordination	1,000,000
TOTAL		73,000,000

¹ The 2025 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.