

FACT SHEET

Child nutrition in Niger

As of 16 March 2007

Key indicators on child nutrition in Niger

Population: 12.6 millions

Population of under five children: 2.3 millions (18%)

Under-five mortality: 198‰ (MICS 2006), 280‰ (MICS 2000)

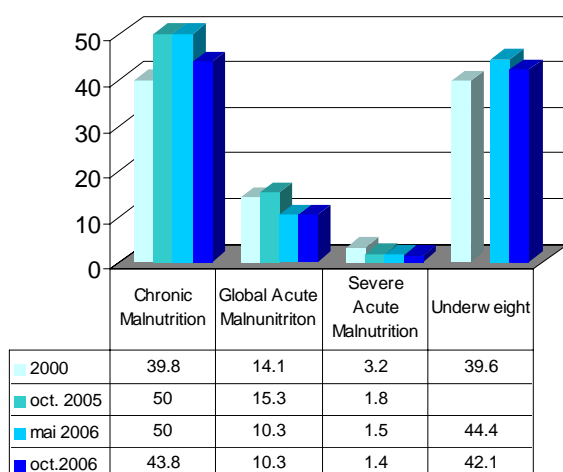
One out of five children dies before they reach 5 years old.

Human Development Index: 177/177

More than 62% of the people live with less than a dollar a day

Poverty is primarily rural and affecting women (80% of the population lives in rural areas, 75% of women are poor and 8 women out of 10 are illiterate)

Indicators on child malnutrition for under 5s



Micronutrients deficiency

Vitamin A supplementation (6-59 months) in 2005: 73.7%

Vitamin A deficiency in children under 5 years of age 2.1% (MICS 2000)

Anemia in child bearing women (iron deficiency) 45% (MICS 2006)

Iodine deficiency in school-age children: total goitre 20.4% / visible goitre 1.4% (1998 survey conducted in schools)

Children food practices

Percentage of children exclusively breastfed (under 6 months): 2.2% (nutritional survey Oct. 06) from 1.2% in 2000 (one of the lowest rates in the world)

Percentage of children breastfed up to 2 years of age: 61.3%

Percentage of households consuming adequately iodized salt 1998-2004: 15%

Food security

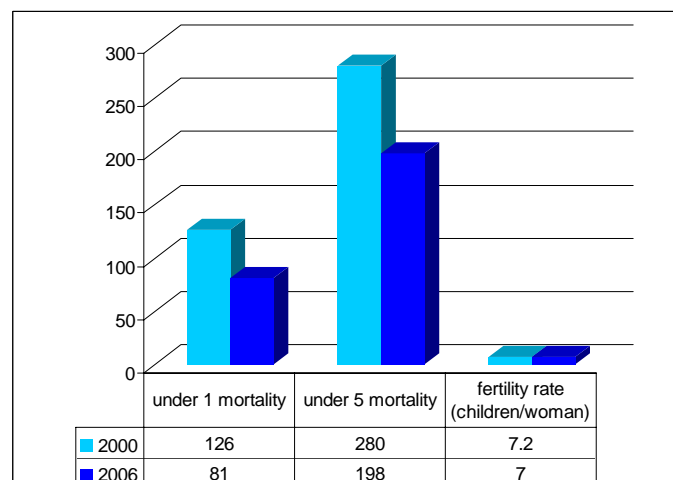
An estimated 1.1 million people, of which 230 000 children under 5 years, are facing food insecurity in 2007, according to a joint SAP/INS/WFP/ FAO/SIMA/UNICEF assessment conducted in November 2006.

Access to basic social services

Percentage of people who can access health care: 54%

Access to safe drinking water: 46%

Access to improved sanitation: 13%



More than half (59.3%) of under 5 child deaths are associated to malnutrition.

Underweight (weight/age) and chronic malnutrition (stunting) are very high and increased between 2000 and 2006.

Despite progress, global acute malnutrition (wasting or weight/height) is still above alarm levels (>10%)

Malnutrition rates are higher in the regions of Agadez, Dosso, Tahoua and Tillaberi.

Percentage of infants with low birthweight 1998-2004: 13%

UNICEF in action

- Advocacy towards the national Government to position nutrition at the centre of development efforts
- Coordination of nutritional rehabilitation activities, in cooperation with the Government and NGOS
- Provision of therapeutic and supplementary food, essential drugs and anthropometric equipment for moderately and severely malnourished children in some 900 nutritional rehabilitation centers and screening sites
- Distribution of Vitamin A and micronutrients supplements to protect child survival and maternal health ; Promotion of salt iodization for household consumption
- Communication for behavioral change, in particular promotion of adequate feeding practices for infants and toddlers, such as exclusive breastfeeding up to six months and adequate complementary food for toddlers
- Training of health agents to the national nutritional rehabilitation protocol (more than 700 agents trained in 2006)
- Training of early warning agents and provision of equipment and technical assistance to build capacity in the collection and analysis of nutritional data for early warning purposes
- Support to some 273 community-based growth promotion teams in charge of detecting malnourished children and referring them to nutritional rehabilitation centers and of counseling mothers on how to better care for and feed their children
- Distribution of dairy goats to mothers with malnourished children to fight malnutrition and promote revenue-generating activities
- Logistical support for the creation and maintenance of cereal banks; promotion of off-season gardening

Admissions in nutritional rehabilitation centers and screening sites

Date	Cumulative number of children suffering of acute malnutrition admitted	Number of children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition	Number of children suffering of severe acute malnutrition
1 Jan 06 – 31 Dec 07	382,400	314,667	67,733
1 Jan 07 - 16 Mar 07	44,483	37,555	6,928

Number of functional nutritional rehabilitation centers and screening sites: 646 (949 as of Dec 06)

Supplies

Between January 1st and December 31th 2006, UNICEF distributed more than 4000 MT of therapeutic and supplementary food (3,266 MT of UNIMIX (vitamins and minerals enriched flour), 25 MT of therapeutic milk (protein, vitamins and minerals enriched milk), 461 MT of plumpy'nut (highly nutritious peanut butter spread) and 352 000 liters of oil), not including anthropometric equipment (536 measuring boards and 828 Salter scales) and essential drugs.

List of partners (23)

Action contre la faim, Africare, AMURT, CADEV, CARE, Concern, Croix Rouge française, GOAL, Human Appeal International (HAI), Helen Keller International (HKI), Humedica, Islamic Relief, Mercy Corps, Médecins sans frontière (MSF) Spain, MSF France, MSF Switzerland, MSF-Belgium, Plan Niger, Samaritan Purse, Save the children UK, URC, Valpro, World Vision.

Allocated budget and financial requirements in 2006 and 2007

As part of the Regional UN Consolidated Appeal for the Sahel region launched on 28 March 2006, UNICEF was seeking US\$8,946,794 to attend to 500,000 malnourished children. As of 31 December, UNICEF mobilized a total amount of US\$9,225,705; that is more than 100.7% of the emergency appeal for 2006. It spent US\$5,296,588 in 2006 and programmed US\$3,339,993 in 2007 to ensure the continuation of activities in 2007.

UNICEF is seeking US\$5,879,318 against the CAP 2007 launched in December 2006 by OCHA in order to implement emergency nutrition and child survival activities to attend to 300,000 malnourished children.

UNICEF response to the food and nutrition crisis in 2006 and 2005

Between July 2005 and December 2005, over 325,000 malnourished children received treatment thanks to the partnership between the Government, UNICEF, WFP and more than 20 international NGOs. Thanks to a large scale response to child malnutrition, UNICEF and its partners treated 382,400 malnourished children in 2006.

Response to the nutrition crisis in 2007

UNICEF and its partners expect to treat 300,000 malnourished children in the course of 2007.