



@UNICEFNiger/A. Islamane

Reporting Period: 01 February to 31 Mars 2021

# NIGER

## Humanitarian Situation Report No. 02

unicef   
for every child

### Situation in Numbers

**2.1 million**

children in need of humanitarian assistance

**3.8 million**

people in need (OCHA, Humanitarian Response Plan - HRP Niger 2021)

**457,200**

children affected by SAM nationwide (OCHA, HRP Niger ,2021)

**313,000**

Internally displaced people (OCHA, March 2021)

**235,000**

Refugees (OCHA, March 2021)

**36,000**

Returnees (OCHA, March 2021)

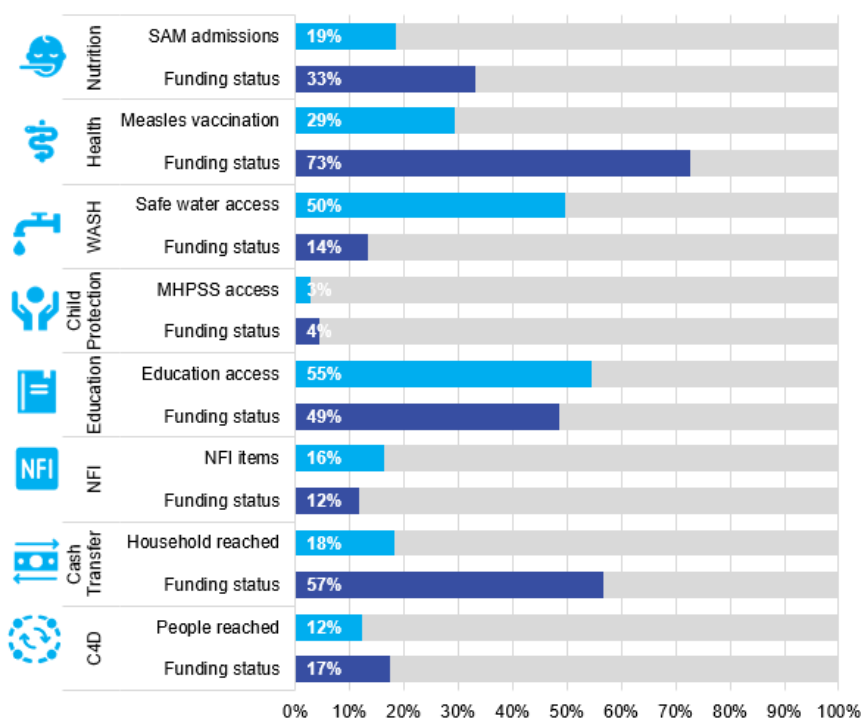
**641,731**

people affected by floods (Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management, 17/11/2020)

### Highlights

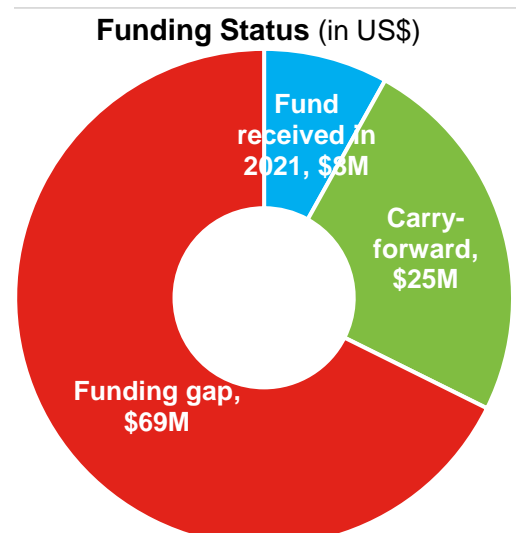
- Niger is facing a measles epidemic and the Public Health Ministry requested the support of UNICEF for the purchase of measles vaccines for the response.
- Regarding the political aspects, as no presidential candidate received a majority of the vote during the first round of the presidential election, a second round was held on 21st February 2021. The announcement of election results was followed by violent civil unrests and a tentative coup d'Etat on 31 March 2021.
- The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) recorded 29 alerts including 16 on displacements of population following non-state armed groups attacks and conducted 14 multisector assessments and 07 rapid-assessment in the Diffa and Tillaberi regions. RRM actors also provided NFI to 21,637 people and shelter assistance to 9,824 beneficiaries, and WASH assistance to 46,122 beneficiaries.

### UNICEF's Response and Funding Status\*



### UNICEF Appeal 2021

#### US\$ 102 millions



\*Funding available includes carry-over and funds received in the current year.

## Funding Overview and Partnership

In 2021, UNICEF is appealing for US\$102.2 M to provide life-saving services to children and women affected by several crises in Niger under the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan, in partnership with the Government as well as NGOs and other humanitarian actors. While carry-over funds from 2020 amount to US\$24.8 M (including US\$17.8 M mobilized towards the COVID-19 response), UNICEF Niger would like to express its gratitude to the German Federal Foreign Office for its contribution of US\$0.66 M towards the 2021 HAC as part of a three-year contribution to UNICEF's emergency response, supporting the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in particular. UNICEF Niger received a share of US\$0.1 M of the Global Thematic Fund for UNICEF's COVID-19 response, thanks to pooled funding from several donors in addition to US\$0.83 M USD allocation from Japan for WASH and emergency response received in early March.

The overall funding gap to address needs stemming from emergency situations including COVID-19 is currently at US\$33 M (32%). UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received over the past year.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

**Humanitarian Needs Overview:** According to the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) published in January 2021, 3.8 million people in Niger need humanitarian assistance, including 2.1 M children. Niger continues to face acute and chronic humanitarian crises which, throughout 2020, were further exacerbated by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and continuous deterioration of the security situation increasing needs and constraining access to beneficiaries, especially the most marginalized. Indeed, the needs analysis shows the persistence of five major crises affecting the country: population movements due to insecurity, armed conflict, and irregular migration; epidemics including the COVID-19 pandemic and measles; floods and other natural disasters; food insecurity; and malnutrition. The 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), launched in February 2021, targets 2,1 M people for receiving humanitarian assistance, 1,5 M people for life-saving interventions, with a total budget of 523,2 M USD. In partnership with government and NGOs, UNICEF continues to provide multisectoral and coordinated assistance to the affected population, both through an emergency approach to assist the most vulnerable populations immediately after a shock, and through longer-term interventions to guarantee durable solutions.

**COVID-19 pandemic:** Following the confirmation of the first positive case of COVID-19 on March 19th, 2020 in the capital city Niamey, UNICEF has been working closely with the Government and its partners to step up the response and prevent further proliferation of the COVID-19 pandemic across the country, already facing the consequences of multiple crises (nutrition, conflicts, natural disasters). As of 31<sup>st</sup> March, Niger registered 5,021 cases of COVID-19 out of 89,613 people tested, 4,641 patients healed and 187 deaths (fatality rate: 3.72%), while Niamey and Agadez remained the regions that reported most of the cases. The vaccination campaign against the COVID-19 virus started on March,29. During the reporting period, UNICEF worked closely with the Government of Niger to prepare the launch of this campaign, by providing technical assistance, mobilising funds and supporting communication and logistics preparatory activities

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Nutrition

UNICEF continues to support the Ministry of Health for the management of SAM in children nationwide, and for the prevention of child wasting, stunting and micronutrient deficiencies. The national communication and advocacy strategy for the "Stronger with Breast Milk Only" Initiative has been finalized with the support of UNICEF. During the reporting period, 5,319,907 children 6-59 months (93% coverage) received one dose of vitamin A supplementation and 4,779,280 children 12-59 months (92% coverage) received a deworming tablet during the national VAS campaign which was coupled with the national vaccination campaign.

### Lake Chad Basin crisis

According to the latest DHIS-2 data available, 5,076 under-five children suffering from SAM (representing 18.8% of the annual target) were admitted for treatment in 2021 in the Diffa region as of the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2021. This result represents an increase of 26% of admissions compared to the same period of last year.

### Mali Border crisis (Tahoua and Tillaberi regions)

According to the latest DHIS-2 data march, 25,016 under-five children suffering from SAM were admitted for treatment in Tahoua and Tillaberi regions (representing 22.6% of the annual target). In Tahoua, compared to last

year, at the same period, the number of admissions represents an increase of 6 % compared to the same period of last year. However, in Tillabéri, the same number represents a decrease of 8 %.

### **Nutrition situation at national level**

From January to March 2021, 84,770 under-five children suffering from SAM were admitted for treatment (representing 18.5% of the annual target), including 8,170 cases with medical complications. During this period, the results of the performance indicators are meeting the SPHERE standards, with 91.8% cure rate, 5.1% defaulter rate, 2.3% non-response rate and 0.8% death rate.

UNICEF continues to ensure timely delivery of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) and other nutrition supplies to health districts and health facilities. A total of 205,262 cartons of RUTF had been procured as of the end of March 2021. Thanks to the generous contributions made by several donors, UNICEF has in the pipeline a total of 244,348 cartons of RUTF that will be used to cover the needs till the end of 2021.

The results of the IPC analysis on the food security and nutrition situation conducted at the national level in March 2021 show that in the current period (March-May 2021), there are 1.6 million people in phase 3 or higher (crisis and emergency level). This represents a 30% increase as compared to the results of the November 2020 IPC analysis. The households classified in phase 3 or higher are especially those that have been affected by large deficits in agro-pastoral production, shocks such as the 2020 floods and the effects of civil insecurity with the dysfunction of markets and restrictions on the movement of people and their goods. These households have low dietary diversity which negatively affects their nutrition status and especially the nutrition status of children under five years. The dysfunction of basic social services (health, education WASH), especially in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, are also drivers of this situation.

For the projected period of June to August 2021, a further increase is expected as this period coincides with the lean season, reaching an estimated 2.3 million people in phase 3 or higher. This increase is also expected as a result of the application of negative coping strategies by households which will further deteriorate their livelihoods situation.

UNICEF is also taking proactive action to reinforce capacities for preparedness and response should there be a deterioration of nutrition in the hunger gap season

### **Health**

#### **Lake Chad Basin crisis**

The epidemiological situation remained calm this month of February 2021. 15 suspected cases of meningitis were notified by the health district of Diffa and the samples are being analysed in Niamey. 13 suspected cases of measles were notified by the health districts of Nguigmi and Diffa. In addition, support was provided to the districts of Diffa, Bosso, Maine Soroa and Nguigmi for the implementation of the activities of community mediators in PMTCT -HIV (Prevention Mother to Child Transmission-HIV).

Unicef supported the Regional Directorate of Health of Diffa in the training of 58 agents on Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR), to empower these agents in surveillance and response. Despite the occurrence of measles epidemics in several districts at the national level, the Diffa region is rather calm, which is the result of previous support from Unicef in the responses and catching up with the measles vaccine.

#### **Mali Border crisis (Tahoua and Tillabéri regions)**

Measles epidemics are raging in some health districts in the Tillabéri region, and the response through vaccination is being planned with UNICEF support: 556 cases are already registered with 02 deaths.

5,635 people including 2,823 men and 2,812 women were reached by healthcare in the Tahoua region, as part of the advanced and mobile outings to populations who had suffered from flooding. In the same framework, 4,842 children under 5 were vaccinated (2,796 girls) against measles and other antigens. In the Tillabéri region, 1,057 people were supported in the same activities, 270 men and 787 women.

#### **Maradi**

Health activities continue in all regions, ensuring preventive measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mobile and advanced outings took place in the health districts of Guidanroumdji, Madaroumfa and Maradi city, supported by UNICEF, to await the affected populations with care. Thus, a total of 2354 people were reached, including 965 men and 1,389 women. 1,205 children under 5 were also vaccinated<sup>1</sup>, of which 582 were boys and 623 were girls.

### **COVID-19 Response**

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<sup>1</sup> EPI routine vaccination

UNICEF continues to support the regions for the implementation of the activities of the response plan for the second wave of the pandemic. In Diffa region, the meeting of the regional coordination committee for response activities at the governorate level was held. Coordination meetings at both district and regional levels were also held, in the health district of Ayorou, Tillaberi Region, to monitor the implementation of the COVID-19 response plan.

Departmental meetings of the One Health Committee were also held in the health districts of N'guigmi and Maine Soroa, to coordinate the response activities of the COVID-19 pandemic and to assess the functioning of the district during this pandemic period.

### **National Level and Others Crises**

In February, UNICEF supports the population of health districts affected by the 2020 floods in accessing healthcare. 4,848 people, including 2,003 men and 2,845 women, were thus treated in the health districts of Gaya (Dosso Region), Boboye (Dosso Region), Gotheye (Tillaberi Region), Guidanroumdji (Maradi Region), Madarounfa (Maradi Region).

Niger is also facing a measles epidemic countrywide, and the Public Health Ministry requested the support of UNICEF in the purchase of measles vaccines for the response: the purchase was launched.

In March, 7,404 children aged 9 months to 14 years were vaccinated in the health districts of Ayorou and Ballayera, in response to measles epidemics in certain health areas of these districts. This initial response was made possible thanks to the support of UNICEF through the purchase and provision of vaccines to the Ministry of Public Health.

In the regions of Niamey and Dosso, 4,601 people were provided with curative care as part of the support to populations affected by floods, including 1,839 men and 2,762 women. 756 of these people were internally displaced.

### **WASH**

#### **Lake Chad Basin crisis**

In February 2021, the WASH Cluster actors provided: (1) 12,506 people affected by population movement with access to safe drinking water to respond to their immediate needs; (2) 14,856 people with access to emergency latrines and 14,942 people reached with hygiene promotion.

In March 2021, the WASH Cluster actors provided: (1) 42,240 people affected by population movement with access to safe drinking water to respond to their long term needs (15,271 people) and their immediate needs (29,969 people); (2) 2,764 people with access to sanitation infrastructures; (3) 1,050 people with dignity kits and (4) 4,361 people reached with hygiene promotion.

#### **Mali border crisis (Tahoua and Tillaberi regions)**

WASH Cluster actors supported: (1) 82,929 people affected by the population movement and floods with access to safe drinking water including 76,258 people through distribution of household water treatment product with UNICEF support to floods response and 6,671 people through the rehabilitation of hand pumps by WASH Cluster actors ; (2) 1,071 affected people with access to sanitation facilities including 490 people with UNICEF support; and (3) 142,355 affected people reached with hygiene promotion in Tillaberi and Tahoua regions including 118,976 people through

In March, UNICEF supported: (1) 2,200 people affected by the population movement with access to safe drinking water; (2) 59,873 affected people reached with hygiene promotion in Tillaberi and Tahoua regions including 56,053 as a result of UNICEF support and 3,820 people through WASH Cluster actors support. In addition, 1,058 malnourished children were provided with WASH-in-Nut kits in Tillaberi and Tahoua regions, including 181 with UNICEF support.

community workers and local radio station with UNICEF support. In addition, 1,171 malnourished children were provided with WASH-in-Nut kits in Tillaberi and Tahoua regions, including 1,058 with UNICEF support.

#### **Maradi**

In Maradi region, 61,889 people affected by floods gained access to safe drinking water through the distribution of household water treatment products and were also reached with hygiene promotion messages thanks to UNICEF support. In addition, WASH Cluster actors provided 500 malnourished children with WASH-in-Nut kits.

In Maradi region, 16 healthcare facilities of the health districts of Bermo, Guidan Roumdji, Madarounfa and Maradi benefited from WASH/IPC facilities and items through the construction of 16 blocks of 2 latrines (divided per sex), 37 incinerators and the installation of 65 handwashing devices.

### **COVID-19 Response**

As co-lead of the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Commission, UNICEF continued supporting both coordination and response activities. In addition to the upstream support provided at national/Niamey level, the coordination was supported by organizing meetings, collecting data and preparing a consolidated report on the activities implemented underlining the outstanding gaps.



At the regional level, 9 health care facilities of the 3 health districts of N'guigimi, Diffa and Mainé Soroa (Diffa region) benefited from improved access to WASH/IPC facilities through the construction of 9 blocks of 2 latrines (divided per sex) and the installation of 4 water tanks.

Additionally, UNICEF supported a team of 6 volunteers to monitor on a bi-weekly basis the availability and functioning of critical IPC facilities and services in 24 health facilities health care centres in Niamey. This refers to the existence and functioning of handwashing stations, hand sanitizer, thermo flash, cleaning, and disinfection of surfaces, respecting social distance among patients and health workers etc.

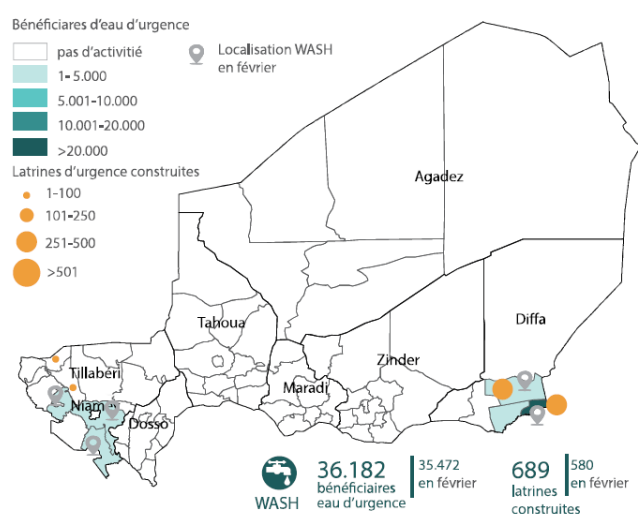
At the regional level, a total of 79,799 people was reached with integrated COVID-19 prevention and hygiene promotion awareness. This includes 11,285 people in Diffa; 27,581 in Tillabéri; 18,577 in Agadez; 18,641 in Zinder and 3,715 in Tahoua. Meanwhile, 16,372 people were reached with critical IPC supplies and hygiene items. This includes distribution of soap to 2,933 people in Agadez, 9,888 in Tillabéri as well as distribution of re-usable face mask to 3,200 people in Zinder and 351 people in Tahoua.

Support on critical IPC/WASH items was additionally extended to 54,831 people who received 7,833 COVID-19 household kits. People reached includes 21,532 IDP's and 13,468 host community members in Tillabéri and 1,831 community members in Tahoua. The kits comprised 1 water container/basin (20 L) with lid, 1 kettle, 1 broom, 1 carton of 30 bars of soap, 1 Jerry can (20 L), 1 bucket (20 L) with lid and 14 fabric-washable-reusable masks

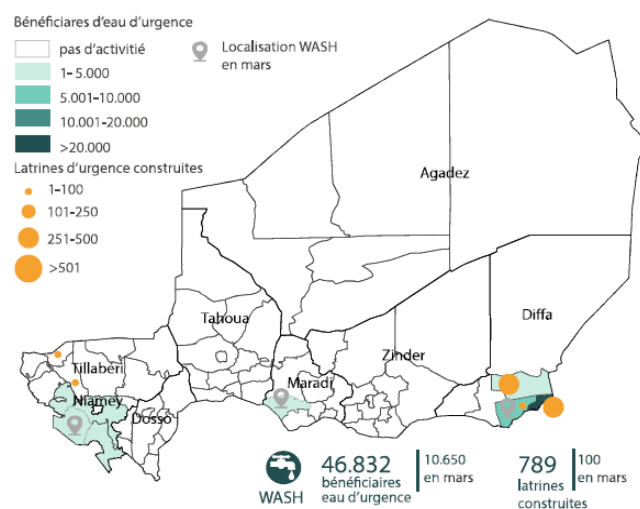
### National Level and Others Crisis

With UNICEF support, 3,486 floods affected people were provided with access to safe drinking water through water trucking Niamey region, while 315 people with access to sanitation facilities and 5,500 people with hygiene promotion in Dosso region and, 6,693 floods affected people were provided with access to safe drinking.

RRM - Interventions WASH en Février et en 2021



RRM - Interventions WASH en Mars et en 2021



### Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA

#### Lake Chad Basin crisis

For the month of February, the incidents reported in the Diffa region did not involve children. However, the 2020 GBVIMS (Gender-Based Violence Information Management System) annual report showed a significant number of children who were victims of sexual abuse and other types of gender-based violence. A significant portion of victims was unaccompanied and separated children. UNICEF is currently coordinating a holistic response to these identified cases, in collaboration with Gender-Based Violence (GBV) actors. Also, eight (8) girls between the ages of 13 and 17 involved in survival sex activities were identified in Diffa, specifically in the sites of displaced people in Djorikolo. UNICEF, via the Regional Directorate in charge of Child Protection (DRPE), has already taken actions to respond to the needs of these children, including foster care.

The month of March 2021 was marked by an upsurge in child abduction in the Diffa region (3 boys recruited by the GANes in Tam commune of Mainsoroa, 2 boys kidnapped with other adults in the commune of Gueskerou and 12 girls and 4 boys still kidnapped in the commune of Gueskerou). Despite this climate of insecurity, actors funded by UNICEF continue to provide protection services to children affected by the BLC crisis. Indeed, from March 29 to 31, 2021, the NGO COOPI trained 10 social workers and DDPE including 3 women on psychological first aid adapted to children in times of conflict and the COVID19 crisis. 1,921 children from communities of refugee and displaced

communities and host populations benefited from sociorecreative and playful activities, including 916 girls and 1,005 boys; 4 ENAS all girls were identified and documented, 2 girls with disabilities received material assistance, 22 girls and 15 boys at risk of protection were identified and followed up 5 girls and 1 boy received specialized mental health care.

### **Mali Border Crisis (Tahoua and Tillaberi regions)**

In February, the situation of children in Tahoua emergency zones was characterized by abuse and violence in many forms; the protection monitoring conducted by NGOs revealed 34 cases of Gender-Based Violence on children (21 child marriages, 8 cases of sexual exploitation, 1 attempted kidnapping for sexual purposes, 2 sexual assaults on children, 12 case of adolescent exposed to survival sex).

The situation continues to be unstable for the protection of children, following targeted attacks, population Movement and constant threats against the population affecting children.

In March 2021 in the region of Tillaberi, 938 children (455 girls) benefitted from psychosocial support by UNICEF partners and 2,406 persons benefitted from sensitization on child protection, COVID-19 prevention and access to social services.

The Child protection situation report by NGO CIAUD at Tahoua highlights in terms of data 310 cases of children were identified during the monitoring, including 179 girls and 131 boys. However, in terms of specific protection, we note 129 children (72 girls) were registered including 7 separated children.

### **Maradi**

The incursions of Non-States Armed Groups (NSAG), which took place frequently in some villages close to the Nigerian borders in February, led to population displacements to find safer and more secure places. Thus, as part of UNICEF prevention and care intervention for children at risk, our services carried out several activities after identification of refugees and internally displaced persons. It resulted in care and support for twenty (20) girls and eighteen (18) boys in Guidan Roumji, seven (7) girls and ten (10) boys in Madarounfa, and twenty-four (24) refugee children (10 girls and 14 boys). Non-Food Items (NFI) kits were made available to them and they were sensitized on Child Protection with the participation of the Child Protection Committees from the host villages.

### **COVID-19 Response**

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, child protection activities with protection services and partners continued during the reporting period, adapting the activities to the context via small groups gatherings for sensitization.

### **National Level and Others Crisis**

In Agadez, the active detection activities undertaken through the OSSWS (One-Stop Social Welfare Shops) of Arlit, Aderbissenat and the CTO (Centre de Transit et d'Orientation) identified 247 children (126 girls and 121 boys) on internal migration (240 were separated and 7 unaccompanied). The majority of the children (193) were aged between 6 and 12 years old. They came from Zinder, Matameye and Maradi (214), Tassaoa (33). They were either begging or exploited for domestic activities. Many of them were regularly enrolled in school but left for several reasons, including disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic and/or parental negligence. All the children received alternative care, psychosocial support and anti-COVID-19 protection in the transit center and OSSWS. These activities took place under the management of the Regional Directorate in charge of Child protection (DRPE) and were supported technically and financially by UNICEF. All the children were reunified within a week with their families by referral to the DRPEs of Zinder and Maradi

In addition, 1,379 (465 girls) vulnerable children, refugees and asylum seekers benefited from socio-recreational activities at the CTO with the contribution of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) (71) and Intersos (1,308 including 954 children and youth of Agadez Community).

In Agadez, during the month of March, 258 children on the move including 118 girls were assisted and protected through Agadez's OSSWS. 166 among (81 girls) are ENA turned away from Algeria through three convoys (14th, 19th and 24th March). The other children are UASC in internal mobility. They were identified by active detection or referral by the actors. Especially, the Agadez juvenile squad intercepted a suspicious group of women and 17 children on their way to Arlit.

The majority of children (180), protected during March are aged 0 to 12, including two babies aged 4 and 7 months. They came from Zinder (235); Maradi (12) and Agadez (1).

All the children received alternative care, psychosocial support and anti covid protection in the transit center and OSSWS under the management of the Regional Directorate in charge of Child protection (DRPE) and technically and financially supported by UNICEF. They were all reunified within a week with their families by referral to the DRPEs of Zinder and Maradi

The imminent beginning of the holy month of Ramadan is generally chosen by candidates for migration to Algeria to try to go there because "we earn more during Ramadan". Unfortunately, that involves sending many children to Algeria for begging. To anticipate a possible massive comeback, Agadez's CTO was bolstered by a large stock of NFI. Likewise, the DRPE was supported to strengthen its community protection system by setting up and training 10 village protection committees and 35 host families.

## Education

### Lake Chad Basin crisis

In February, UNICEF's implementing partners provided 171 new students with school supplies while Cluster members provided 608 others for a total of 779 children. During this month, 2 of the 10 closed schools reopened benefiting 121 children.

During March 2021 the security allowed the implementation of learning normally until the departure for the end of the second term vacations. With the support of UNICEF, 2492 children who arrived following secondary movements in the schools of Awaridi were provided with school supplies through the Regional Directorate of Education.

### Mali Border Crisis (Tahoua and Tillabéri régions)

During the month of February, accidents affecting access to education were not registered in this part of the country. Classes were held normally despite the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF's implementing partners provided 135 new students with school supplies while Cluster members provided 300 others, reaching a total of 435 children.

In March, Unicef and its implementation partners (NGOs COOPI, ICAHD and CONCERN) have supported 2373 students for access to education in the regions of Tillabéri and Tahoua while 12498 have received school supplies and textbooks. It should be noted that a member of the Cluster announced that it has provided 3060 students with school supplies.

### COVID-19 Response

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Education activities with Education services and Unicef implementation partners continued during the reporting period, adapting the activities to the context.

### National Level and Others Crisis

Nationally, schools have remained open and functional despite the COVID-19 wave.

## Social Protection and Cash Transfers

### Lake Chad Basin crisis

In the Diffa region, the IRC partner finalized the market studies and targeting to assist 86 displaced households (516 people) in Nguel-Lamido (Mainé Soroa), 126 households (756 people) in the Festival\_Sabon Carré district (Diffa city) and 153 households (918 people) in the Ari Nguirguidi IDP's site (Diffa city). The cash distribution will take place at the beginning of April 2021.

### Mali Border Crisis (Tahoua and Tillabéri régions)

In March 2021, UNICEF continued with technical support for the implementation of cash pilots within the RRM consortium. Support enabled the ACTED partner to assist 171 households (1,026 people) in Shelter and non-food items through direct cash transfers to Ouallam in the Tillabéri region.

### Maradi

In February 2021, with the technical support of UNICEF, RRM consortium member ACF provided monetary assistance through a voucher fair to 230 displaced households in the Sanguirawa/Guidan Sori village, Guidan Roumdji department in the Maradi region.

### National Level and Others Crisis

The partners IRC, ACF and ACTED have finalized the post-distribution cash assessments for their interventions carried out respectively in Mainé Soroa, Maradi and Ouallam.

## C4D, community engagement and AAP

### Lake Chad Basin crisis

In Diffa departments, 34 community meetings were held with traditional leaders, religious, women and youth representatives on the peace thematic. In terms of action within communities, the **Community Participation**

registered 326 home visits of community workers in 07 IDPs sites of Diffa region, encouraging women to attend health centers and to practice hygiene activities at home.

In liaison with pupils' attendance at school, 218 Primary schools got **reach-out sessions** calling children to have frequent attendance all the year. These open sessions were conducted the day 1 of the week before classes, reaching 9,178 persons. IDPs of Ariguirdi in 3 sites got benefit of out-reach sessions conducted around the cash-transfers, pushing women and adolescents to the respect of the human life and life skills, for 4,309 persons informed. Also, to reinforce competencies of water point managers surrounding IDP's camps, members of 9 water committees' have been **trained** in hygiene, recalling standards set for clean water and personal health.

### **Mali Border Crisis (Tahoua, Tillaberi regions)**

Regions of Tillaberi and Tahoua are more impacted by armed attacks from Mali, registering a lot of population movements with its consequences: community conflicts (IDPs-Host populations). A local NGO named FAD (*Femmes, Action & Développement*) had conducted diverse interventions to strengthen young people resilience and leadership, in terms of contributing to the social cohesion and peace. 5,486 pupils of *Makarantha* (Koranic schools) had been **trained** on danger of the fundamentalism and GVB with 98 young girls and boys promoted Peace ambassadors in Ayourou, Abala and Tera municipalities. In a network of young people covering 7 municipalities of Tillaberi, 5,092 adolescents had conducted **peer sessions**, reaching 25,461 peers with messages on peace building, fighting GVB and fundamentalism.

### **COVID-19 Response**

During the reporting period, several interventions were delivered in the area of **Community Engagement**. 29 **training sessions** on barrier measures against the COVID-19 virus and the role Committees were realized in Diffa region. 05 Health districts management teams benefitted from these training sessions, as well as 287 teachers from schools located in 04 departments in the Diffa region. 102 radios (public, private and community) have waved daily spots on COVID-19 prevention measures and peaceful cohabitation (host, refugees and displaced population). Continuing to support communities to positively react to the spread of the coronavirus among the population, community radios around the country are waving spots and messages on barrier gestures, supported by 312 Alert committees based in communities, with traditional leaders (149) more and more taking part in the promotion of the positive message and manners (wearing a mask, distance greetings, etc.).

Working within communities is much demanding, requesting a strong follow-up to have interventions, facts and attitudes consistently implemented. Once a celebrity came with a negative fact, that fragilizes the whole system in place, calling 2 times of energy with people of superior rank to reinstall the positive attitude/behavior back in place.

### **National Level and Others Crisis**

At the national level, different activities were implemented in the area of **Material Development** to produce a training module, 12 generic messages and 02 radio spots in 08 languages (Hausa, Jerma, Kanuri, Tamashek, Arab, Gourmathe and Fulani) on flood prevention. Notwithstanding the activities are properly delivered by implementing partners, it remains the challenge of having coordination between all the stakeholders, including government actors. Efforts should also be done to improve the field data collection to complement available administrative data.

For the floods interventions follow-up, 200 women were deployed in displaced camps of Niamey, Tillaberi and Maradi to talk with households on illnesses prevention, peaceful cohabitation and self-esteem, heard by 4,987 persons. And to sustain positive actions developed within affected populations, 34 community radios continued to wave interactive messages, talks and soaps on mitigating floods consequences and prevention. It has been recorded 21 claims from camps of Niamey and Tillaberi, voicing for information circulation, the performance of registration and the way of delivering services to affected people.

### **Non-Food Items (NFI)**

In 2021, the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) continued to be in high demand to respond to humanitarian shocks in the 4 regions in crisis and continues to be one of the major humanitarian response mechanisms in the country.

### **Lake Chad Basin crisis**

In February, UNICEF, through RRM implementing partners, supported 9,124 people affected by conflicts in Diffa region, through the distribution of 1,416 NFI kits.

In March, UNICEF, through RRM implementing partners, supported 2,526 people affected by conflicts in Diffa region, through the distribution of 387 NFI kits.

### **Mali Border crisis (Tahoua and Tillaberi regions)**

In February, UNICEF, through RRM implementing partners, supported 1,913 people affected by conflicts in Tillaberi region, through the distribution of 256 NFI kits.

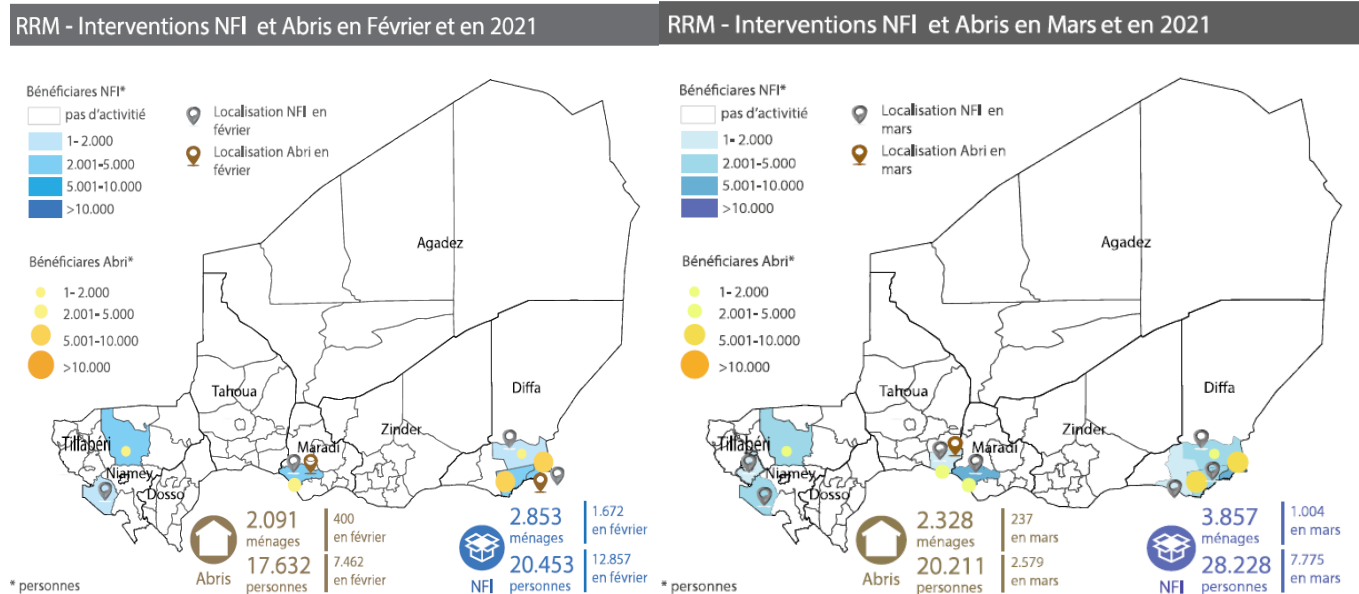


In March, UNICEF, through RRM implementing partners, supported 3,008 people affected by conflicts in Tahoua and Tillabéri region, through the distribution of 356 NFI kits.

## Maradi

In February the same activity as Cash transfers mentioned above, UNICEF, through RRM implementing partners (ACF) provided NFI assistance through Cash-based intervention for 1,820 people affected, including 1,245 children in Sanguirawa/Guidan Sori village.

In March, UNICEF, through RRM implementing partners, supported 2,241 people affected by conflicts in Maradi region, through the distribution of 261 NFI kits.



## RapidPro<sup>2</sup>

During the reporting period, technical work has been performed to include Communication for Development (C4D) sector in the RapidPro network. Focal points from Community Surveillance Committees will be trained to send monthly data on the COVID-19 pandemic, including alerts. Preparatory activities have been done for the implementation in

Diffa region, as a pilot. Other sections will be included throughout the first semester of the year. In February, 1,218 schools nationwide sent complete reports on indicators for school monitoring and the COVID-19 pandemic. This result is lower compared to the previous period results. This is due to the fact the data collection operation has been stopped to allow school directors to use the new codes developed in collaboration with the ministries in charge of Education and the National Statistics Office. UNICEF has financially supported the ministries in charge of Education to speed up the process of the training of the school directors and consequently improve the response rate. School directors will send data for the past months, once the training will be completed. About WASH, 153 reports on performance indicators were received out of 249 expected water point reports and 11 alerts were received and 09 of them were addressed. 06 reports were received on Child Protection indicators. UNICEF is signing an agreement with line ministries to strengthen the field monitoring and capacity building to improve the response rate.

In March 2021, UNICEF and its partners developed a plan for the extension of the RapidPro system in the region of Diffa and performed capacity building for C4D, WaSH and Protection actors (Government, local NGOs, communities, etc.). The concretisation of this planning will allow stakeholders to take ownership of the RapidPro system. UNICEF is supporting the technical work to improve the tool to meet the partner needs. 2,208 schools nationwide sent complete reports on indicators for school monitoring and COVID-19 pandemic. The training sessions of school directors still need to be completed nationwide. UNICEF is taking monitoring and follow-up actions to ensure the

<sup>2</sup> <https://rapidproniger.azurewebsites.net/>

completion of the training. About WASH, 193 reports on performance indicators were received out of 249 expected water point reports and 10 alerts were received, while 09 of them were addressed. 07 reports were received on Child Protection indicators.

## Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF leads the Education and WASH Clusters, the Child Protection Sub-Cluster and the Nutrition Technical Working Group in close collaboration with government counterparts. UNICEF technically leads the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), implemented jointly by ACF, ACTED, DRC, IRC, OCHA, OIM, WFP and the government, and is responsible for the NFIs procurement. UNICEF is also an active member of the MultiSectoral Cash Working Group. In February 2021, the IMAM (Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition) working group of the Nutrition Technical Group reviewed the recommendations of the formative evaluation of the national SAM treatment programme over the period 2010-2019. The meeting allowed for the formulation of action points and identification of the responsible entities to ensure the implementation of the recommendations. UNICEF also identified actions to support the implementation of these recommendations, some of which already started (e.g. the development of a new partnership agreement for the extension of the mother/MUAC approach).

The Child Protection Sub-Cluster and its members are working on resources mobilization to expand the Child and Adolescents Survivors Initiative (CASI) in the emergency regions of Niger. The main objective is to improve GBV prevention and access to quality services for children victims of GBV.

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

Several multi-media assets have been produced and disseminated, generating discussion and feedback from audiences, while traditional media has been engaged to showcase UNICEF's humanitarian response during the reporting period.

- Human Interest story highlighting the support provided by AICS to respond to population movement in the region of Tillabery: [Uncertainty Between Fear and Hope](#)
- Human Interest story on the activation of the Rapid Response Mechanism in the region of Diffa: [I felt like the sky had fallen on our heads](#)

Public statements made by the UNICEF Regional Director on the two attacks in western Niger -

- [24 march: Niger: Attacks on children and families must stop, once and for all](#)
- [17 march: Statement by UNICEF Regional Director for West and Central Africa, Marie-Pierre Poirier on attack in western Niger](#)

## Next SitRep: June 2021

UNICEF Niger website: [www.unicef.org/niger](http://www.unicef.org/niger)

UNICEF Niger Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/unicefniger/>

UNICEF Niger Twitter: [www.twitter.com/Unicefniger](https://twitter.com/Unicefniger)

UNICEF Niger Blog: <http://unicefniger.tumblr.com/>

UNICEF Niger Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/unicefniger/>

UNICEF Niger Humanitarian Action for Children appeal: <http://www.unicef.org/appeals/index.html>

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## Annex A

### Summary of Programme Results

|   |               | UNICEF and IPs Response |                |                                | Cluster/Sector Response |                |                                |
|---|---------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Sector  | Overall needs | 2021 target             | Total results* | Change since last report<br>▲▼ | 2021 target             | Total results* | Change since last report<br>▲▼ |
| <b>Nutrition</b>  |               |                         |                |                                |                         |                |                                |
| # of children under-five with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment in a health facility   | 457,200       | 457,200                 | 84,770         | 32,458 ▲ **3                   | 457,200                 | 84,770         | 32,458 ▲                       |
| <b>Health</b>   |               |                         |                |                                |                         |                |                                |
| # of children (6 months-14 years) in humanitarian situations vaccinated against measles   | n.a           | 120,000                 | 35,247         | 7,404 ▲                        |                         |                |                                |
| # of people affected by conflict and disease outbreaks having received access to primary health care  | n.a           | 85,000                  | 30,038         | 14,298 ▲                       |                         |                |                                |
| # of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases   | n.a           | 500                     | 13             | 13 ▲                           |                         |                |                                |
| # of coordination meetings held with the support of UNICEF (technical and / or financial)   | n.a           | 36                      | 9              | 5 ▲                            |                         |                |                                |
| # of health centres equipped as triage centres  | n.a           | 42                      | 12             | -                              |                         |                |                                |
| <b>WASH</b>   |               |                         |                |                                |                         |                |                                |
| # people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene   | 1,125,880     | 378,097                 | 187,771        | 8,893 ▲                        | 540,139                 | 230,597        | 25,426 ▲                       |
| # people affected by an outbreak of water-borne disease accessing hygiene kits and sensitization activities   | 1,125,880     | 788,116                 | 459,043        | 56,053 ▲                       | 1,125,880               | 507,558        | 65,284 ▲                       |
| # of malnourished children admitted for SAM/MAM and benefiting WASH minimum package in the community  | 1,125,880     | 59,816                  | 3,711          | 1,058 ▲                        | 88,283                  | 5,149          | 1,239 ▲                        |
| # people accessing appropriately designed and managed latrines  | 1,125,880     | 315,936                 | 18,153         | -                              | 423,815                 | 40,162         | 2,764 ▲                        |
| # of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services  | n.a           | 50,000                  | 61,831         | 54,831 ▲                       |                         |                |                                |
| # of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)  | n.a           | 750                     | 0              | -                              |                         |                |                                |
| # of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)   | n.a           | 500                     | 0              | -                              |                         |                |                                |
| <b>Child Protection</b>   |               |                         |                |                                |                         |                |                                |
| # of children and caregivers reached with psychosocial support, including access to child-friendly spaces   | 678,107       | 152,503                 | 4,177          | 2,277 ▲                        | 212,823                 | 12,191         | 2,881 ▲                        |
| # of registered unaccompanied and separated children benefiting from family tracing and reunification services and family-based care or alternative care arrangements (includes CAAFAG) |               | 1,140                   | 603            | 172 ▲                          | 4,256                   | 617            | 186 ▲                          |
| # women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions   |               | 3,600                   | 0              | -                              | 7,200                   | 37             | 1 ▲                            |
| # children affected by the crisis benefiting from sensitization   |               | 283,569                 | 15,711         | 4,810 ▲                        | 453,828                 | 37,826         | 11,865 ▲                       |
| # children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse   | -             | 300                     | 0              | =                              | 300                     | 0              | =                              |
| <b>Education</b>  |               |                         |                |                                |                         |                |                                |

\*\* update plus 9853 children achievement of march

|  |            |            |           |          |         |        |        |
|--|------------|------------|-----------|----------|---------|--------|--------|
| # children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning  | 255,000    | 125,000    | 68,242    | 2,373▲   | 230,000 | 93,881 | 2,373▲ |
| # children receiving individual learning materials   | 255,000    | 125,000    | 28,409    | 5,552▲   | 230,000 | 52,906 | 8,674▲ |
| # schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)  | 17,000     | 5,000      | 170       | 3▲       | 10,000  | 225    | 31▲    |
| <b>Social Protection and Cash Transfers</b>  |            |            |           |          |         |        |        |
| # households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors   | n.a        | 5,000      | 908       | 230▲     |         |        |        |
| # households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system where UNICEF provided technical assistance and funding                                | n.a        | 75,779     | 0         | -        |         |        |        |
| <b>C4D, community engagement and AAP</b>   |            |            |           |          |         |        |        |
| # people reached through messaging on access to services (including COVID-19 related messages)   | 12,000,000 | 12,000,000 | 1,487,323 | 541,523▲ |         |        |        |
| # people participating in engagement actions (for social and behavioural change)   | 3,000,000  | 3,000,000  | 251,962   | 119,841▲ |         |        |        |
| # of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through establishes feedback mechanisms | 1,300,000  | 1,300,000  | 6,532     | 2,897▲   |         |        |        |
| <b>Non-Food Items</b>  |            |            |           |          |         |        |        |
| # of displaced persons and people affected by natural disasters provided with NFI kits   | 863,000    | 171,500    | 28,228    | 7,775▲   |         |        |        |

## Annex B

### Funding Status

| Funding Requirements (as defined in Humanitarian Appeal of 2021) |                    |  |   |   |                    |                   |            |
|--|--------------------|--|---|---|--------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Appeal Sector  | Requirements       | Funds available                        |   |   | 2020 carry forward | Funding gap       |            |
|  |                    | Humanitarian Resource received in 2021 | Humanitarian resources available from 2020 (Carry-Over) | Other Resources available from 2020- (Carry-Over) |                    | \$                | %          |
| Nutrition  | 31 364 724         | 5,488 744                              | 4 919 908   |   | 4 919 908          | 20 956 072        | 67%        |
| Health   | 2 545 000          | 178 112                                | 1 422 584   | 248 000   | 1 670 584          | 696 305           | 27%        |
| Water, sanitation and hygiene                                    | 14 783 338         | 1 336 428                              | 661 924   |   | 661 924            | 12 784 985        | 86%        |
| Child protection   | 10 733 010         | 117 179                                | 198 198   |   | 198 198            | 10 417 633        | 97%        |
| Education  | 12 240 170         | 61 215                                 | 5 892 052   | 162 439   | 6 054 491          | 6 124 464         | 50%        |
| Social protection and cash transfers*                            | 18 046 061         | 252 035                                |   | 9 976 061   | 9 976 061          | 7 817 965         | 43%        |
| C4D, community engagement and AAP                                | 3 100 000          |  | 204 532   | 335 468   | 540 000            | 2 560 000         | 83%        |
| Non-food items / shelter   | 7 821 489          | 622 601                                | 293 756   |   | 293 756            | 6 905 132         | 88%        |
| Cluster/sector coordination                                      | 1 601 925          | 208 378                                | 467 960   |   | 467 960            | 925 586           | 58%        |
| <b>Total**</b>   | <b>102 235 717</b> | <b>8 264 691</b>                       | <b>14 060 913</b>                                       | <b>10 721 968</b>                                 | <b>24 782 881</b>  | <b>69 188 145</b> | <b>68%</b> |

\*The funding requirements for social protection take and cash transfers include US\$5,000,000 as social protection requirements as well as US\$600,000 for cash humanitarian assistance.