

NIGER

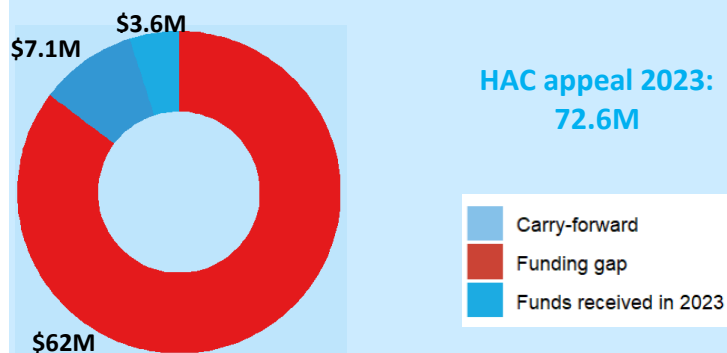
Flash update # 03
8 September 2023



Humanitarian Update

- As of 28 August 2023, approximately 109,120 individuals were affected by flooding across the country, (35,503 people in Maradi region, 27,717 in Tillaberi region, 20,488 in Tahoua region, and 17,236 in Zinder region) and around 3,000 households were displaced due to inter-communal violence.
- There is an urgent need for continued international assistance to vulnerable displaced groups, including migrant workers, families, children, refugees, and asylum seekers. Niger currently hosts more than 700,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and asylum seekers.
- There have been positive developments in the cross-border transportation of humanitarian supplies, including vaccines, vital medicines, and Therapeutic Food Products (such as RUFT and therapeutic milk) thanks to increased joint advocacy by UN agencies.
- On 3 September, the local authorities announced that Niger's airspace, which has been closed since 6 August, is now open again for domestic and international commercial flights.
- UNICEF is ready to receive humanitarian supplies and is already organizing field distributions as needed.

Funding Requirements



Coordination, preparedness and response strategies

- As part of emergency preparedness, the child protection sub-cluster organized two training sessions, attended by 90 stakeholders on child protection in emergency and child protection monitoring in humanitarian contexts.
- In addition, partners of the Tillaberi Child Protection Working Group provided assistance to 18 separated children who had been identified and referred to the Tillaberi municipal protection committee. The Working Group partners also assisted 16 children who were injured following a clash between two communities in Kodogoria village (municipality of Mehanna, Tillaberi) which caused the population to move to Bankilare on 16 August. Four seriously injured children were transferred to the Tillaberi Health Centre.
- The activities of the Education Cluster continue, including training of 41 focal points from 21 organizations on reporting using the 5Ws form, and preparing the restitution of the Joint Education Needs Assessment Report (JENA).
- UNICEF attended the monthly meeting of the technical and financial partners' working group on health financing. One of the objectives of this meeting was to review the level of funding in the current context. It also sought to identify priority topics/areas of focus to ensure the continuity of basic health services for the population.
- UNICEF has been working on the WASH emergency preparedness and response plan for the country, based on the critical scenario with the integration of new risk zones, in particular the city of Niamey and the surrounding area, with the aim of reaching 50,000 people.

Impact by Sector & UNICEF's Response



Nutrition

- At least 45,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) have been treated since 26 July.
- WFP has warned that more than 90,000 moderately acute malnourished children (MAM) may not receive timely treatment in September-October, putting them at risk of SAM and, worst case scenario, malnutrition-related death, unless the cross-border transportation of humanitarian supplies is quickly resumed.

- UNICEF has the capacity to respond to an increased number of MAM children, using stocks already available in-country but an early consumption of these stocks may leave SAM children without treatment in Quarter 4 of 2023. UNICEF has revised its resource mobilization strategy to meet the urgent needs for 2023 (90,000 children; US\$ 3.6 million) and the first half of 2024 (90,000 children; US\$ 3.6 million) so that supplies are ordered early and delivered on time.

- Discussions are ongoing with the Nutrition Directorate of the Ministry of Health to review the annual Nutrition workplan and explore the possibility of



Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) supported by UNICEF stored in a health centre in Maradi Region. © UNICEF / Niger 2023 / Kanou

- providing support to the sector through non-governmental organizations (NGOs). UNICEF and 7 NGOs (4 national and 3 international) are developing partnerships aligned with donor requirements to continue nutrition interventions nationwide.
- SAM treatment services continue in health centres and hospitals, including screening activities to identify and refer

MAM and SAM children at community level, nutrition counselling for children and women, and home fortification of children's meals with multi-micronutrient powders in selected districts.



Health

- UNICEF provided 176,760 liters of fuel (worth US\$ 194,000) to ensure the uninterrupted operation of the vaccine cold chain in all storage facilities at the national level and in the 8 regions and 64 health districts for one month, despite frequent power cuts.
- UNICEF provided four severe malaria kits and two simple malaria kits, enabling the treatment of 60,000 patients during the peak malaria season in four health districts of Niamey.
- UNICEF supplied essential medicines to health facilities and community health workers, to treat 9,155 cases of diarrhea with Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) and Zinc, 3,416 cases of simple malaria, and 7,715 cases of pneumonia in children under five.
- In addition to direct care, UNICEF supported health promotion activities through community health workers. 920 women who gave birth at home were referred to integrated health centres (CSIs); 4,009 pregnant women were referred to CSIs for antenatal care; and 6,983 children were referred for vaccination.
- As part of the efforts to enhance maternal and neonatal healthcare, UNICEF provided medical supplies and equipment to 20 CSIs in Dosso region and the Niamey health district. This includes 76 hospital beds and Integrated Community Case Management treatment kits for children under five. These kits consist of: (a) 59,000 tubes of Chlorhex.diglu.7.1% gel for umbilical cord care (20g tubes); (b) 3,000 blister packs of Artem 20mg + Lumef 120mg dispersible tablets (6 per pack); (c) 300 First Response Malaria Pf HRP2 test kits (25 per kit) and (d) 240 MUAC (Mid Upper Arm Circumference) tapes for children.



Child Protection

- In response to the crisis, UNICEF is scaling up its child protection in humanitarian action response. Presently, 48 community recreation centres are under construction to provide emergency community psychosocial support to at least 35,000 children. The centres will be supervised by mobile psychosocial teams.
- With Niger now designated as a situation of concern by the UN Secretary-General, UNICEF is leading efforts with key UN counterparts to strengthen programming on children and armed conflict (CAAC). 40 focal points and national NGOs have been trained on CAAC, including awareness

raising on grave violations against children, and work is underway to review and strengthen coordination and update the CAAC working group work plan to reflect the latest developments.

- UNICEF is working to scale up NGO partnerships in response to sanctions to continue providing regular services and emergency response that will target 60,000 children affected by various crises (mainly conflict, insecurity and military-political crisis) in the 5 priority regions.
- UNICEF supported the updating and dissemination of the child protection referral pathways, which enabled the provision of immediate assistance to 4,675 vulnerable children (34% girls), including victims of serious violations in the departments of Torodi, Tillaberi and Gotheye (Tillaberi region).
- UNICEF is updating and adjusting the supply plan for NFI kit orders to include new requirements linked to the current crisis.
- As of 1 September 2023, 435 new village child protection committees have been set up in Maradi, Tillaberi and Zinder regions with the support of UNICEF. Members of these committees continued awareness-raising activities in the villages, reaching 160,873 people (38% women, 22% girls, 25% men and 15% boys), and managed 3,964 protection cases, including 144 cases of annulled child marriage. 1,898 cases were referred to health, police, and justice services for further action.
- UNICEF is also providing training and technical support to national NGOs on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.



Education

- Modification of the supply plan: The supply plan for school kits and furniture is being updated and adjusted in response to new needs arising from the military, and political crisis, and the recent flooding.
- Replenishment of schools impacted by fire: Orders have been finalized for school kits and furniture to enable 500 children from the four schools in Diffa that were burned by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) in early July 2023 to resume classes in October.
- Service collaboration with NGOs: A call for expressions of interest has been developed to work with 4 NGOs. The objective is to maintain the provision of regular services and initiate emergency responses for 50,000 children affected by various crises, notably conflicts and floods, in the four emergency regions.
- Construction and reception of schools: Supervision of the construction of two rural secondary schools and the acceptance process of two additional schools is on-going.

This initiative aims to improve access to secondary education, especially for girls. Approximately 800 students are expected to be enrolled in these institutions by the start of the school year in October 2023.

- Back to School 2023 campaign: Organizational efforts for the 2023 Back to School campaign are underway, including analyzing and identifying specific activities, establishing partnerships with civil society organizations and NGOs, and adopting targets.



Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

- In anticipation of, and based on the L2 recommendations, an initial amount of US\$ 25,000 has been allocated to 3 NGOs to accelerate the emergency WASH response.
- UNICEF continues to support the construction of 12 multi-village water networks and 11 autonomous water points in order to improve access to safe drinking water for about 65,000 vulnerable people (including IDPs and refugees) in Diffa, Tahoua, Maradi, and Zinder regions.
- In partnership with the NGO IDELA, UNICEF is working to promote good hygiene and sanitation practices (including support for the construction and use of household latrines) among some 10,311 people in the municipalities of Gueskerou and Bosso and to distribute critical WASH kits to about 15,000 vulnerable people.
- Meetings of the WASH Cluster Coordination and the two regional WASH Working Groups were used to analyze scenarios and review targets in the event of a deteriorating situation.



Social Protection

- UNICEF is currently working on the implementation of the drought cash programme through the recruitment of targeting/registration firms, cash distribution services and an external monitoring firm. The drought cash assistance will cover 27,000 households in 336 villages and 18 municipalities in Tahoua, Maradi, Zinder, Dosso and Agadez regions.



Social and Behaviour Change

- UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and health agencies to emphasize malaria, diarrhea, and infection prevention. Activities focused on protecting children in the event of flooding, using health services for both prevention and treatment and fostering peace in displacement sites. Community meetings, radio micro-programmes, and public warning messages were used to inform communities of potential risks.
- With the support of UNICEF, interpersonal communication sessions were held at health centres, mosques and churches on the importance of immunization and adherence to the immunization

schedule, key family practices, and infant and young child feeding, with a focus on eating local foods. Home visits were also conducted to raise awareness among parents on the importance of bringing their children to the health centre for preventive and curative care.

- Community volunteers and household monitoring vaccination committees conducted community outreach to encourage the counting of children under five as part of strengthening routine immunization in Diffa, Zinder and Maradi regions.



Essential Household Items

- UNICEF remains actively involved in the technical coordination of the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in Niger.
- Nearly 10,000 people have been displaced in Tillabéri region since 18 August. RRM partners have conducted six multisectoral assessments to assess the needs of this population.
- Thanks to the NFI (Non-Food Items) and WASH kits provided by UNICEF, RRM partners provided assistance to a total of 1,314 displaced households, comprising 8,917 individuals, including 5,564 children, in Tillabéri region.
- UNICEF also transferred to RRM partners 200 boxes of PUR, 500 boxes of Aquatab and 500 baby kits specifically designed to meet the need of children aged 0 to 6 months.



Distribution of NFI kits in Tera (Tillabéri region) on 15 August 2023
(© DRC Niger, 2023)

Agadez region

- **Health, nutrition, WASH:** Actions to prevent and treat malnutrition, and to promote vaccination are continuing through the NGOs French Red Cross and COMEV. Contingency kits are positioned or being sent to address the risks of epidemics and flooding.
- **Education and child protection:** Several meetings with the regional council, implementing partners and UNHCR have enabled the identification of priority actions to ensure the return of nomadic children to school and the preparation of

a multisectoral emergency programme to ensure the education and protection of 4,000 migrant children, 1,000 unaccompanied children, and 600 refugee and asylum-seeking children.

Diffa region

- Despite the political crisis, UNICEF continues to implement its programmes and serve vulnerable populations in Diffa region. Since the coup d'état, efforts focused on:
- **Community and family awareness:** 117 mothers and child caregivers received information on routine childhood immunization and COVID-19. 1,694 women and 758 men were educated on the importance of immunization through home visits and dialogues, facilitated by 29 trained community workers.
- **Malaria prevention:** UNICEF team led a campaign that reached 47,629 children aged 3 -59 months, with AQ/SP doses. This campaign was carried out by 142 teams, comprising 284 health and community workers, across 20 CSIs.
- **Water, hygiene, and sanitation:** Efforts have been made to improve access for both host populations and IDPs. Three solar water systems were completed in the municipality of Maine Soroa, serving the needs of 1,672 beneficiaries. A WASH strategy is being implemented in 74 villages of the Gueskerou municipality, to provide 47,174 people with access to safe water and 2,390 latrines.



Vaccination campaign in Diffa municipality (Diffa region). UNICEF continues to assist vulnerable children by providing essential immunizations.
(© UNICEF, Kassoka 2023)



Solar water systems installed in Maine Soroa, Diffa region. UNICEF continues to provide drinking water to vulnerable population. (© UNICEF, Kassoka 2023)

- **Floods response:** In response to flooding in Bosso municipality, assistance was provided to IDPs, refugees, and local residents. 10,090 affected individuals (1,954 households) benefited from UNICEF's assistance to improve their access to safe water, hygiene, and sanitation. This group includes 4,285 men, 5,805 women, and 1,076 children.
- UNICEF continued to establish emergency stocks in 5 municipalities (Diffa, Gueskerou, Chetimari, Maine Soroa and Toumou), and to prepare training workshops for municipal emergency committees on emergency response preparation and coordination tools. UNICEF is also procuring alert kits (mobile phone) and protection kits for municipal emergency committees.
- UNICEF supported the creation of a temporary secondary school on a site near Guezza (45 km from the city of Tahoua). The school consists of 4 classrooms, an administrative block, a principal's residence, a caretaker's dwelling, two residences for married teachers, two accommodations for single teachers, a sheltered area, latrines, 50 plants, and an independent hydraulic system with a water tower. The water flow ranges from 5 to 10 m³/h.

Maradi and Zinder regions

- **Health:** UNICEF continues to ensure access to malaria kits to treat the increasing number of malaria cases (about 700 new cases reported at Maradi Regional Hospital since July 2023). UNICEF provided the mother and child health centre in Maradi with 5 additional monitors and local follow-up to strengthen care and services for newborns.
- **Nutrition:** UNICEF continues to supply health centres with medicines for the systematic treatment of malnutrition, nutritional materials and inputs, including RUFT, therapeutic milks, blankets, and mosquito nets.
- **Cholera response:** UNICEF is supporting the implementation of precautionary measures after a suspected case of cholera originating from Jibia was registered in the health area of N'Yelwa in the health district of Madarounfa, with a negative rapid diagnostic test (RDT).

Tahoua region

- **Child protection:** UNICEF, with the support of social workers from the departmental protection directorate, conducted community awareness campaigns on gender-based violence and available redress mechanisms, reaching 155 people (70 women, 30 men, 20 boys, and 35 girls) in the Gueben Zogui IDP sites. They also provided psychosocial support by organizing a football match with mixed teams of host community and IDP children, benefiting 50 children (20 girls).



A football match with mixed teams of host community and IDP children in sites located in the Tahoua region. UNICEF provides psychosocial assistance to children from populations affected by forced displacement as well as from the host population. (© UNICEF, Hainikoye 2023)