



Tents of 48m² installed at the site for displaced people in Diffa region. UNICEF continues to ensure the continuity of education in emergency contexts. © UNICEF, Moptar, 2023.

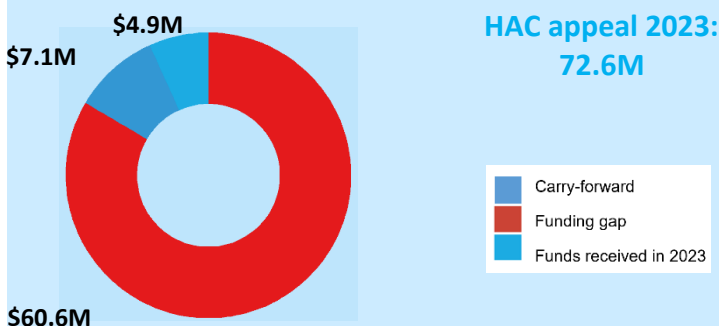
NIGER

Flash update # 05
20 October 2023

Humanitarian Update

- As of 09 October 2023, the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management (MAH/GC) registered a total of 169,598 people impacted by flooding (20,126 households), including 52 deaths. Maradi is the most affected region, with 67,548 people affected, followed by Tillaberi (31,806 people), Tahoua (24,923 people), Zinder (24,619 people), Diffa (10,266 people), Agadez (6,176 people), Dosso (4,166 people), and Niamey (94 people).
- As of 13 October 2023, the diphtheria epidemic has affected 19 of the country's 72 districts, with 1,440 cases and 69 deaths. Zinder region is the worst affected, accounting for more than 85% of all cases. A measles epidemic has also occurred in 35 districts, with 1,784 cases and 7 deaths as of 13 October 2023.
- The education sector is still facing challenges related to insecurity and floods. To date, 987 schools remain closed due to insecurity in Tillaberi (93.2%), Tahoua (3.27%), Diffa (2.43%), Maradi (1.1%), affecting 85,534 children (48.8% girls). Furthermore, 68 classrooms collapsed following flooding in the regions of Zinder (4), Agadez (27), Maradi (29), Tahoua (7) and Tillaberi (01).
- The *Conseil National pour la Sauvegarde de la Patrie* (CNSP) announced on television on 6 October that the initial budget for 2023, estimated at US \$5.3 billion, has now been reduced by 39% due to the sanctions imposed on Niger.

Funding Requirements



UNICEF's Response



Nutrition

- Since the 26 July coup, approximately 88,000 severely wasted (SAM) children have been treated.
- The inability of supplies to enter Niger through the Benin or Nigerian borders will cause significant delays and prevent WFP from providing timely treatment to 185,000 moderately acute malnourished (MAM) children. This could lead to an unforeseen increase of 40,000 SAM children for whom no supplies are available. The nutrition sector estimated that a total of US\$ 10.5 million would be required to address this challenge, including US\$ 4.7 million for air freight of supplies for MAM, US\$ 1.5 million for the procurement of additional supplies, US\$ 3.8 million for airlift of these supplies and US\$ 500,000 for additional road transportation costs for SAM children.



Health

- UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health in both coordination efforts and the continued procurement of drugs and treatment supplies in response to the diphtheria epidemic, which will enable the treatment of 5,000 individuals.
- To ensure the sustained delivery of routine immunization services for children aged 0-23 months and pregnant women in early 2024, UNICEF supported the procurement and reception of 500,000 doses of the injectable poliovirus vaccine, 847,500 doses for rotavirus to combat diarrhoeal diseases, 173,200 doses of PCV13 to protect against pneumococcal lung infections, and 350,700 doses of yellow fever vaccine.

- Additionally, UNICEF has placed a special order for 350,000 syringes for BCG tuberculosis vaccination, which are currently being dispatched to help mitigate the existing national shortage.
- Vaccine storage capacity in Zinder and Maradi regions is being improved to ensure accessible immunization services for all. To this end, UNICEF is installing two cold rooms, each with a capacity of 30 cubic meters. UNICEF is also supporting health facilities, particularly in Zinder region and Niamey, to cope with the peak of the malaria epidemic. This includes providing the Matameye District Hospital and the Amirou Boubacar Diallo Hospital with five treatment kits to treat 2,100 children with both simple and severe malaria.
- UNICEF facilitated the solar electrification of 83 health facilities in the municipalities of Kornaka, Guidan Amoumoune, Bagaroua, Tabalak, Gaffati, Kantche, Yaouri and the Bagaroua blood bank to ensure the continuity of services for a population of 458,361 inhabitants.



UNICEF has facilitated the electrification of the integrated health centre (CSI) of Mafaroua, in Maradi Region. UNICEF continues to improve the healthcare environment in health facilities. © UNICEF, Chery, 2023.



Child Protection

- UNICEF has provided protection services to 260 at-risk children, including 99 unaccompanied children, identified by community child protection mechanisms in six municipalities of Tillaberi region. These children were referred to relevant partners for psychological support and medical assistance and were placed in temporary host families, while social services and authorities assisted with family tracing and additional support.
- Social services and the youth network conducted awareness-raising sessions on gender-based violence (GBV), reaching 5,235 individuals (3,316 women). Furthermore, 3,789 people (1,696 women) in Tillaberi received information on how to report allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse.

- A special meeting was held with the support of UNICEF to raise awareness of children and armed conflict (CAAC) issues in relation to the current military-political context.
- Despite the imposition of restrictive humanitarian access measures, actors of the child protection sub-cluster have provided psychosocial support to 17,519 vulnerable children and parents—including 5,058 girls—since August 2023. Within this group, 3,359 unaccompanied or separated children, including victims of violence and at-risk children (including 896 girls), have received individual assistance.



Education

- The 2023-2024 school year opened throughout the country on 2 October 2023. In Agadez, Dosso, Maradi, Niamey, and Tillaberi regions, most teachers have been assigned to schools. In the other regions (Tahoua, Diffa, Zinder), the process of assigning teachers is still ongoing.
- UNICEF has met the needs of 227,267 learners in the regions of Diffa, Tillaberi, Tahoua and Agadez, through the distribution of education kits, including school bags for learners in grade 1 and junior secondary (6^{eme}). In addition, 6,400 learners in Diffa, Niamey, Tahoua and Tillaberi regions have gained access to education through the distribution of 128 Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) to overcome the lack of infrastructure.
- The education sector continues to face challenges related to insecurity and flooding. To date, 987 schools remain closed due to insecurity in Tillaberi (93.2%), Tahoua (3.27%), Diffa (2.43%), Maradi (1.1%) regions, affecting 85,534 children (48.8% girls). In addition, as of 9 October 2023, 68 classrooms have collapsed following floods in the regions of Zinder (4), Agadez (27), Maradi (29), Tahoua (7) and Tillaberi (01).



Children receiving individual kits in Diffa region. UNICEF supports the back-to-school campaign, ensuring a smooth transition back to school for numerous children. © UNICEF, Moctar, 2023.



Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

- 8,479 additional individuals (3,581 children) have been reached through hygiene promotion and the distribution of hygiene kits to 545 households since late September.
- The WASH Cluster held a coordination meeting with all NGO and government partners, focusing on advocacy for the country's response to flooding and a training session on the proper use of reporting tools.



Social Protection

- UNICEF Niger continued preparatory activities to set up a strong internal coordination mechanism to ensure that all contracted service providers and implementing partners, as well as relevant UNICEF staff, are adequately connected, informed, and operationally linked to jointly deliver 12 months of drought response cash assistance to 27,000 households in 336 villages and 18 municipalities in Tahoua, Maradi, Zinder, Dosso and Agadez regions. Special attention is being given to the implementation of risk mitigation measures, as UNICEF will directly implement all delivery functions (targeting, data collection and registry management, payments and monitoring, post-distribution monitoring and grievance redress).



Social and Behaviour Change

- 2,355,470 people were reached with mass communication interventions carried out in partnership with community-based media. The media have expanded their reach and disseminated messages on water-borne diseases and back to school.
- UNICEF established an online feedback mechanism that enabled the collection of 2,274 complaints. Of these complainants, 2,016 received feedback through the digital platform, where messages produced in French and four national languages (Hausa, Zarma, Tamajek and Fulfuldé) were transmitted via the unlimited access service line 3.2.5.
- Social mobilization of populations and community leaders on flood management has continued. A series of capacity building and revitalization activities for the Vulnerability Monitoring Observatories and the Community Emergency Early Warning Systems were supported in all eight regions, benefiting 489 people.
- About 16,900 people participated in community forums organized on the liberation of educational spaces used as relocation sites for disaster victims, the issue of education for children living in internally displaced sites and the allocation of new sites.

- Community social communication reached parents of children through simple socio-behavioural surveys on their perceptions of vaccination, household surveys and home visits carried out in several health centres and at the level of some households. 288 of the 320 households surveyed, or 90%, were in favour of vaccination.
- Advocacy sessions were held with four leaders who pledged to participate in the promotion of immunization activities in their respective areas.



Interview to collect social and behavioral data at the integrated health centre of Lacouroussou in Dosso region. UNICEF ensures that communities are educated, empowered, and engaged in their own well-being and development. © UNICEF, Mariama, 2023



A social and behavioral survey for immunization in the integrated health centre of Mokko, in Dosso region. UNICEF continues to advocate for comprehensive vaccination programs, aiming to safeguard the health and well-being of every child. © UNICEF, Mariama, 2023.



Essential Household Items

- UNICEF continues to provide technical support to Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) actors in Niger. Since the end of September, three assessments have been conducted by RRM partners in Diffa region following a population displacement alert.
- On 4 October, 226 displaced families (1,283 people, including 739 children) received Non-Food Items (NFI) and WASH kits through RRM actors.

Role of UNICEF in humanitarian coordination

- A nutrition sector coordination meeting was held under the leadership of the Ministry of Health with financial and technical partners and NGOs (38 people). The meeting emphasized the need for better integration of nutrition services into mobile clinics was agreed, with greater involvement of health districts and health centres in the treatment of acute malnutrition and the counselling on infant and young child feeding nutrition and early childhood development. The importance of involving partners of the nutrition sector in the humanitarian response plan under development was also highlighted.
- A joint training session was organized for 60 members of the Education Cluster and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR), with a focus on "Intersectoral collaboration in education and child protection". The Back-to-School campaign activities were launched involving 439,365 children (223,373 girls).
- The child protection AoR continues to disseminate the referral circuit and organize capacity building sessions on child protection in emergency situations, including on the centrality of protection and inter-sectoral coordination, organized in collaboration with NorCap, the Global Education Cluster and the Education Cluster in Niger.
- To enhance information sharing on grave violations, UNICEF led a meeting with UNHCR monitoring teams to better integrate the monitoring of grave violations into protection activities.
- Under the leadership of UNICEF, the Education Cluster supported the Back-to-School campaign for 439,365 children (50.84% girls) and teachers and the launch of the new school year in the four emergency-affected regions (Tillaberi, Tahoua, Diffa and Maradi) for the enrolment of 2,16,4843 children (4% in pre-primary, 78% in primary and 18% in secondary).

The main challenge is to ensure the full availability of school supplies and emergency school canteens for an estimated 150,000 children. Thanks to the advocacy and awareness sessions with the regional authorities Education cluster members, 30 schools that had been used temporary shelters by floods victims have been cleared and re-opened for the new school year.

- According to the Education Cluster, over 238,346 children require recreational kits but only 10% of these kits (1,065 kits) have been pre-positioned by UNICEF, leaving tens of thousands of children without adequate psychosocial assistance. It is estimated that 4,632 recreational kits are needed to address the needs of 173,710 targeted vulnerable children, with a budget requirement of US\$1 million.

Reports from Field Offices

Agadez region

- **Health & Nutrition:** UNICEF is supporting malnutrition prevention and treatment activities and promoting vaccination in the region. Additional support from UNICEF in the form of tents and hygiene materials has strengthened the capacity of the regional hospital's nutritional recovery centre (CRENI) to address malnutrition during this peak.
- **Education and Child Protection:** To support the start of the new school year in Agadez region, including for 350 refugee and asylum-seeking children, UNICEF, in coordination with UNHCR and the NGO Intersos, is supporting a multi-sectoral emergency programme to ensure the education and protection of 600 refugee and asylum-seeking children, 4,000 migrant children, and 1,000 unaccompanied and separated children.



Back to school for refugee and asylum seeking children at the humanitarian center school in Agadez. UNICEF ensures that every child, regardless of their circumstances, has access to quality education © UNICEF, Ramatou, 2023.

- After a two-month pause, Algeria has resumed expulsions of migrants, deporting 1,800 people in the last two weeks, including 108 unaccompanied/separated children, who were assisted with UNICEF's support (food, accommodation, psychological and medical assistance, family tracing and reunification).

- **Social Policy:** In addition to price increases for essential commodities due to the current political situation, nomadic areas are facing fodder deficits and bushfires, impacting children's living conditions and school attendance. In response, UNICEF has launched the first phase of the drought cash programme, benefiting 280 households in 16 villages within Aderbissinat municipality.



Unaccompanied children expelled from Algeria, welcomed and taken care of at the Transit and Orientation Centre. UNICEF implements reception and referral systems for the well-being of unaccompanied children. © UNICEF, Halidou, 2023.

Diffa region

- **Health:** UNICEF-supported construction work has begun on a dry warehouse for the Diffa Regional Public Health Directorate in support of the immunization Programme.
- **Social policy & Emergency:** UNICEF provided 6,605 NFIs and shelter kits to the municipalities of Diffa, Toumour, Maine-Soroa, Chetimari, and Gueskerou in order to strengthen emergency preparedness and response to shocks.
- **WASH:** UNICEF, together with its intervention partner, has facilitated a WASH response training for 38 community volunteers, focusing on flood response and cholera prevention. A total of 4,490 individuals, including 1,512 children were made aware of WASH issues through this initiative.
- **Education:** To facilitate a smooth start to the school year, UNICEF provided tents as well as 2,500 individual kits, 1,000 kits for grade 6 and 361 kits for grade 3 to the Regional Directorate of Education.
- **Child Protection:** The Child Protection Sub-Working Group meeting, which brought together over 20 actors, helped strengthen advocacy for assistance to children who are victims of violence.



A mother of triplets receives assistance with food and essential household items. UNICEF is committed to the well-being of children and women in need. © UNICEF,

Maradi and Zinder regions

- **Nutrition:** 31,903 cartons of Ready-to-Use Food (RUTF), 855 cartons of therapeutic milks (F100 and F75), and other medicines were delivered to 20 health districts and 2 regional CRENI in Maradi and Zinder to cover 2023 Q4 needs. These supplies will help provide care for over 48,000 children suffering from SAM. Furthermore, 11 heads of CSIs, 9 facilitators, and 232 community health workers in Mayahi have been trained to enhance the skills of child caregivers in their communities to support malnourished children.
- **Health & WASH:** UNICEF has supported the response to the diphtheria epidemic in the Zinder region through sanitation and case management in the Matameye health district and a donation of medical/WASH supplies consisting of one kit of medicines, including consumables to treat 1,000 patients, one tent, 53 boxes of 30 pieces of soap, one 25kg drum of calcium hypochlorite (stable bleaching powder-HTH), and three hand-washing facilities.

Tahoua region

- **WASH:** In partnership with Vision Plus, UNICEF reached 1,096 people, including 308 children from 11 villages in three municipalities, with awareness of WASH issues in response to flooding. In addition, 2,237 people, including 1,527 children, were reached through the distribution of soap and water treatment products.



Distribution soap and water treatment products in Madaoua, Tahoua region, in response to the flood on Oct. 10, 2023. UNICEF continue to provide assistance to people affected by natural disaster. © UNICEF, Kadai, 2023.

- **Child Protection:** UNICEF, in collaboration with the regional child protection directorate (DRPE), organized a capacity-building workshop for members of the extended Child Protection Area of Responsibility (15 men and 7 women) on "investing in the rights of girls: our leadership, our well-being" and the mechanism for monitoring and reporting serious violations of children's rights.



Workshop on investing in the in the rights of girls: our leadership, our well-being" and the mechanism for monitoring and reporting serious violations of children's rights. UNICEF is committed to empower girls and safeguarding children's rights © UNICEF, Seini, 2023.

- **RRM:** 4 multisectoral needs assessments (MSAs) were conducted in 2 departments for 194 households and 815 NFI kits were distributed to internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- **Programme monitoring:** UNICEF conducted a multi-sectoral mission (Social Policy, WASH, Nutrition and SBC) in six municipalities to: (i) monitor the quality and level of execution of the infrastructures under construction and the state of operation of those completed; (ii) evaluate the services for the management and prevention of malnutrition in health services and at community level; (iii) analyze the technical and material capacities of community radios; and (iv) exchange with community mobilization and management structures.