

NIGER

Flash update # 04

9 December 2024



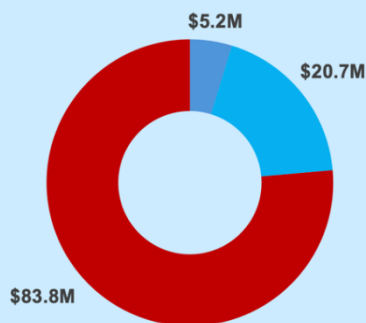
Distribution of recreative kits to flood-affected children in Maradi region. UNICEF is offering essential support to children and their families affected by the floods. @UNICEF, Matti, 2024.

Humanitarian Overview

- In Niger, intense flooding has had a devastating impact which caused tragic loss of life and significant destruction of crops, livelihoods, and infrastructure. As of 11 November 2024, the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management (MAH/GC) reported a total of 1,510,816 individuals affected by flooding (206,489 households), resulting in 396 deaths.
- Maradi and Zinder regions bore the brunt of the flooding, with Maradi accounting for 22% of all affected people. Tillabéri, Tahoua and Dosso regions experienced moderate to severe impact. The regions of Diffa, Agadez and the capital region Niamey showed relatively lower numbers of affected people, though the impact was still significant. Together, the three most affected regions (Maradi, Zinder, and Tillabéri) account for nearly 58% of the total affected population of 1,510,816 people.
- The 2024 school year was delayed by one month due to flooding. As the rainy season ends, urgent action is needed to address gaps in shelter kits and essential household items in Maradi and Zinder, where thousands continue to be at risk of water borne diseases. Swift action from local authorities and partners has played a crucial role in containing the spread of the cholera outbreak.
- As of 30 October 2024, there are 427,420 refugees and asylum seekers in Niger, along with 507,438 internally displaced individuals primarily in the regions of Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua, and Tillabéri (Government & UNHCR).

Funding Requirements

HAC Appeal 2024:
\$109.7M



UNICEF's Response



Health

- According to the Ministry of Health, as of 18 November 2024, 11 new cases of cholera were recorded, along with one fatality. The cumulative count has reached 1,061 cases. Currently, eight districts continue to manage active cases: Bouza, Konni, Madaroumfa, Zinder, Tessaoua, Gazaoua, N'Guigmi, and Magaria.
- UNICEF accelerated its multisectoral response to cholera outbreak in order to prevent new risks of infections in Maradi, Zinder, Tahoua and Dosso regions. Since 27 October 2024, UNICEF has supported malaria case management in Maradi and Zinder due to a surge in malaria cases this year.
- Five community cholera management kits, capable of treating 500 moderate cases of diarrhoea, were provided to Maradi and Zinder regions (Mirriah health district). Additionally, two severe malaria management kits were provided to the Maradi Regional Hospital, treating around 400 children, in response to a sharp rise in cases – particularly among children.
- The high burden of malaria this year highlights the urgent need for enhanced case management, especially as climate change intensifies heavy rainfall in the Sahel, increasing the risk of disease.



Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

- In Tahoua, UNICEF and partners reached 8,289 people with hygiene awareness campaigns and provided 7,714 affected individuals with water purifiers (PUR, Aquatabs) and soap. 129 flooded classrooms were disinfected with chlorine to ensure a safe environment for children.
- In Agadez, UNICEF and its partner constructed 150 emergency latrines, benefiting 3,353 migrants, primarily women and children. They also conducted awareness campaigns on ending open defecation and good hygiene practices, including the use and maintenance of latrines and handwashing devices.
- In Tillabéri and Niamey, UNICEF and its partner reached 18,186 people with hygiene awareness campaigns and provided 17,297 affected individuals with water purifiers (PUR, Aquatabs) and soap. Additionally, 60 emergency latrines were constructed for

flood-affected households, and 209 flooded classrooms were disinfected.

- In Maradi and Zinder, UNICEF and partners supported 9,156 people with water purifiers (PUR, Aquatabs) and soap and disinfected 515 classrooms. Furthermore, 70 emergency latrines were constructed, including 20 at relocation sites for flood victims and 50 for affected households. Awareness campaigns on hygiene practices reached 16,898 people.
- In Diffa, UNICEF is prepared to respond to anticipated seasonal floods from the Komadougou River through a standby agreement with a local NGO and the prepositioning of WASH supplies, including 2.1 million Aquatabs and 132,000 bars of soap.



Education

- Approximately 5,520 classrooms in Niger have been damaged, destroyed, or occupied by displaced families. Local authorities worked with partners and displaced people to find alternative solutions, and schools were reopened on 28 October 2024 after a month-long delay.
- In Maradi, 137 classrooms were disinfected, enabling 6,850 students to return safely, and 42 latrines and a playground were rehabilitated across 17 schools. To ensure a safe start of the school year, UNICEF also supported the distribution of 24,730 school kits in four municipalities of Guidan, Roumdji and Madarounfa departments. An additional 14,750 kits are also in route to Maradi to ensure a safe environment for the 2024-2025 school year.
- In Dosso, UNICEF and partners distributed 20,514 individual school kits across 19 municipalities in 9 departments. Furthermore, 112 flooded classrooms were disinfected with chlorine to ensure a safe learning environment for the 2024-2025 school year.
- In Tahoua, 34,000 individual school kits were distributed in 20 municipalities across four departments.



Nutrition

- Despite the disruption caused by the devastating flooding, UNICEF and partners ensured a steady supply of nutrition resources and maintained uninterrupted SAM treatment services at the community level. Since the start of the flooding season in June 2024, 148,421 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) have been treated, and 192,832 caregivers have been sensitized on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices to support children's growth and development.
- Working closely with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF provided technical expertise to monitor needs and coordinate response efforts, particularly in the health districts and facilities most affected by the floods. This collaborative approach between UNICEF and the Ministry of Health's Nutrition Directorate was exemplified at a recent workshop, which focused on analyzing national screening data to better understand and respond to the scale of the crisis.
- The analysis – which was limited by the fact that only 34

out of 72 health districts provided quality data for assessment - revealed wide variations in under-five malnutrition across the country, with rates ranging from 2.3% to 18.5%, with three health districts above WHO's critical threshold of 15%: Tanout (Zinder region), Goudoumaria (Diffa region), and Belbedji (Zinder region). It also showed that severe wasting varied significantly across districts, with rates ranging from 0.6% to 6.5%. These results highlight the need for urgent targeted interventions in the most affected areas. The reports are still being consolidated with the local authorities and will be shared in due course.



Child Protection

- Eight Protection in Emergencies Needs Assessments were carried out in the affected areas to enhance data availability and inform UNICEF partners' response to the floods.
- As part of 2025 planning, UNICEF and government counterparts identified and adopted preparedness and anticipatory measures to mitigate the impact of future flood crises on child protection. A \$292,000 equipment order has been placed and deliveries are underway.
- On 11 October, in collaboration with the Ministry of Humanitarian Action, Child Protection services, and the NGO CIAUD, 27,100 flood-affected individuals (17,862 children) from 753 households in Mari and Foul (Tillabéri urban commune) received protection kits containing essential items such as buckets, blankets, soap, basins and clothing.
- By 20 November, 54,168 flood-affected children (34,460 girls) had received community-based mental health and psychosocial support in Maradi, Tillabéri, Diffa and Agadez regions. Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, mitigation, and response activities reached 21,269 people, including 7,604 girls, 6,500 women, 3,342 boys, and 3,823 men. Community leaders and affected individuals were also sensitized to flood-related protection risks such as injury, displacement, family separation, disease and the dangers of explosive remnants of war.



Social and Behaviour Change

- UNICEF strengthened risk communication and community engagement through regular meetings with national and regional committees and the media, chaired by the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and regional governors.
- A total of 2.8 million people were reached with radio and community messages on flood management and cholera prevention. In addition, 500 traditional, youth, and women leaders participated in 57 community coordination meetings, and 1,716 actors were trained in social and behaviour change, risk communication and community engagement.
- 22,852 people raised questions, complaints, or concerns, many of which were resolved in collaboration with government services.



Essential Household Items

- UNICEF continued to strengthen its preparedness efforts by contributing to OCHA's Anticipatory Action Framework. This pilot initiative, in collaboration with other agencies, focuses on monitoring the Niger River and rapidly deploying essential services to help vulnerable communities mitigate the impact of flooding.
- Since the onset of the floods, UNICEF has distributed 7,500 NFI kits in the most flood-prone regions to support affected populations.
- As part of its multi-risk preparedness and response strategy, UNICEF has procured and dispatched 70 tents (48 m²), 86 tents (72 m²), and 30 tents (24 m²) to establish Cholera Treatment Centres (CTCs) and Units (CTUs) as needed.

Coordination, preparedness, and response strategies

- UNICEF continued to actively participate in all flood-response coordination meetings at both national and regional levels. These meetings provided a crucial platform for dialogue and collaboration with other humanitarian actors, as well as national and local authorities to review ongoing response efforts, identify gaps in assistance, and strengthen synergies. Through this coordinated effort, UNICEF contributed to a well-organized and comprehensive approach to the flood response, fostering partnerships and enhancing assistance for the affected population.
- The Education Cluster strengthened coordination at national and sub-national levels through regular meetings, data collection, analysis, and the mobilization of 14 member organizations for the flood response.
- Advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns, along with collaboration with local authorities and members of the shelter sector ensured that approximately 2,000 classrooms (serving 88,000 pupils) previously occupied by disaster victims were cleared before the start of classes.
- Coordination between the Education and WASH clusters facilitated the disinfection of more than 1,500 flood-affected classrooms, benefiting 66,000 pupils.
- As part of the Back-to-School campaign, the ongoing integrated multi-sectoral response supported 491,220 people, including 99% children and 1% teachers.

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