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NIGER

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 12

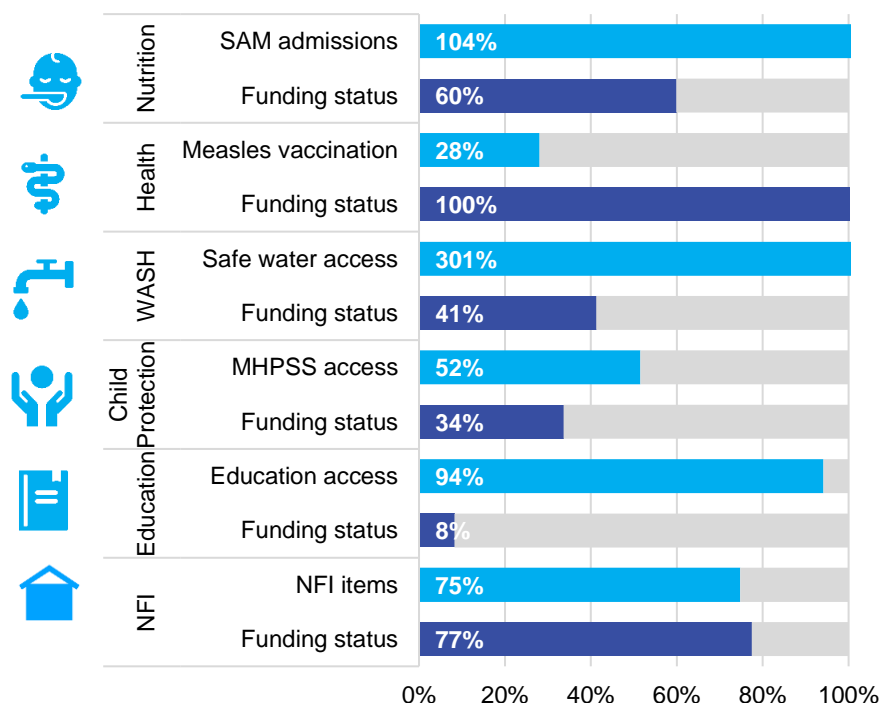
unicef 
for every child

Reporting Period: 01 to 31 December 2020

Highlights

- On December 12, at least 34 civilians were killed, and a substantial number injured in Toumour village (Diffa region) by non-state armed groups. Among the victims, 10 children (5 girls and 5 boys) were killed, and 6 others (4 girls and 2 boys) were maimed. The presence of non-state armed group elements in the border regions with Burkina Faso and Mali, as well as the Lake Chad remains a primary concern.
- 2,798 cases of measles were recorded in 2020 in Niger, with 13 deaths, affecting almost all health districts. UNICEF has contributed to the response to the measles epidemics this year through the purchase and supply of vaccines, as well as operational costs.
- From January to December 2020, the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) recorded 133 alerts on displacement of population and shocks, and conducted 101 multisectoral assessments and 09 rapid assessment, as well as 68 rapid protection assessment in Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua and Tillabéri regions. In response to shocks and assessments, RRM actors provided NFI and shelter assistance to more than 14,000 affected households for more than 94,000 beneficiaries, and WASH assistance to 92,000 beneficiaries, including 49,000 children. In the meantime, the RRM provided an individual protection assistance to more than 1,000 people with specific needs.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status**



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

** Regarding the Education sector, the high rate of results compared with the low funding level is mainly due to the utilisation of stock ordered in 2019 and the use of non-emergency funds, in particular for the response to emergencies in Diffa, Tahoua, and Tillabéri regions (regular resources, NORAD funds, Education Cannot Wait contributions).

Situation in Numbers

2 million
children in need of humanitarian assistance

3.7 million
people in need (OCHA, Humanitarian Response Plan - HRP Niger (Revised), July 2020)

533,384
children affected by SAM nationwide (OCHA, HRP Niger (Revised), July 2020)

87,927
Internally displaced children in Tillabéri / Tahoua, out of

138,229
Internally displaced people in Tillabéri / Tahoua (UNHCR, November 2020)

47,562
Refugee children in Maradi, out of

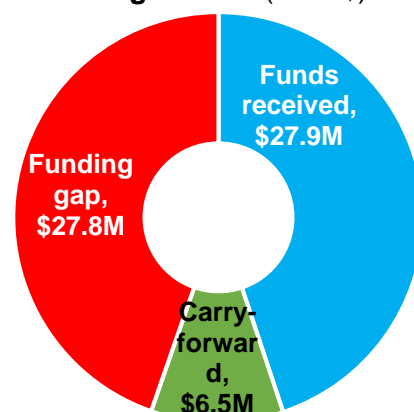
70,000
Refugees in Maradi (UNHCR, August 2020)

632,608
people affected by floods (Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, 30/10/2020)

UNICEF Appeal 2020

US\$ 62.2 millions

Funding Status* (in US\$)



Funding Overview and Partnership

For its emergency response in Niger, UNICEF appealed for US\$ 62.2M in 2020 to provide life-saving services for children and women affected by several crises in Niger. Humanitarian assistance was provided in coordination with other humanitarian actors within the framework of the revised Humanitarian Response Plan 2020 and in partnership with the Government as well as NGOs. While the funds carry-over from 2019 amounted to US\$ 6.5M, a total of US\$ 27.9M were received throughout the year with the latest contributions having been provided by the Czech Republic for Health and WASH response in the region of Diffa, as well as by Romania supporting the Education sector. At end of the year, a funding gap of 46% remained. The most critical gaps were observed in the sectors of Nutrition, Child Protection, as well as Water, Hygiene and Sanitation, impacting essential needs coverage for children and families in Niger. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received that enabled UNICEF to respond to crises and provide essential goods and services. Together, we will continue to support vulnerable populations where it is most needed.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Humanitarian Needs Overview: 2020 was a particularly challenging year with the combination of the COVID-19 pandemic, exceptionally heavy flooding, and an aggravated security situation. The 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan was revised in July: it has been estimated that 3.7 million people in Niger were in need of humanitarian assistance, including about 2 million children, an increase by 800,000 people compared to the previous estimate of 2.9 million (2020 Humanitarian Response Plan, July revision). The needs analysis shows the persistence of five major crises affecting the country: food insecurity, malnutrition, epidemics including COVID-19 pandemic, floods and population movements due to conflict and irregular migration. According to this revised version of the 2020 HRP, 2.2 million people (+27%) are targeted for non-COVID-19 response with an updated budget of 433.8 M USD (+8%). The Food Security sector increased target and budget by 33%; other sectors with a major increase in people targeted are protection, nutrition, shelter/NFI and health. The revised HRP also includes an amount of 82.3 M USD for COVID-19 response (66.6 M USD for health activities) for a new HRP total budget of 516.1 M USD. The COVID-19 HRP targets 3.1 M people in the country. Exceptional heavy flooding affected the country with more than 630,000 people affected and negative impact on access to services as education, with 94 destroyed classrooms, in addition to the loss of housing and goods. Moreover, the growing number of internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants, increases the vulnerability of host communities. During the year, the total number of IDPs increased by 58% (+109,753 persons) compared to 2019, with Tillabéri and Tahoua regions being the most affected regions (total of 138,229 IDPs, an increase by 47% over the last 12 months) (UNHCR - Map of Population of Concern Dec 2020). In total, there were 298,458 internally displaced persons, 229,905 refugees in Niger at year-end.

In partnership with government and NGOs, UNICEF continued 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 terms interventions to guarantee durable solutions.

Access continues to be very limited due to continuous insecurity and to a cumbersome civil-military coordination process. Field missions are frequently cancelled due to incidents and/or non-state armed groups activities and lack of access is slowing down program implementation and monitoring. The imposition of armed escorts by the government for all movements outside urban areas represents a major barrier to access the affected communities. In line with humanitarian principles and HCT position, UNICEF suspended all field missions requiring an armed escort, with heavy consequences to the delivery of assistance. Dialogue is ongoing with the Government and the humanitarian community and UN Agencies.

COVID-19 pandemic¹: Following the confirmation of the first positive case of COVID-19 on March 19th, 2020 in the capital city Niamey, UNICEF worked 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). In 2020, Niger experienced two waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, eventually reaching all regions albeit to different degrees. The first wave (March to July), with 1,135 cases and 69 deaths (6.08% lethality) for 10,809 people screened, recorded a higher lethality (delay in treatment) than the second (from September onwards), with 2,192 cases and 35 deaths (lethality of 1.60%) for 51,612 screenings. The continuous strengthening of screening services allowed for a five-fold increase in the number of people tested for COVID-19. Niamey region recorded 73% of the country's recorded cases and 52% of deaths. Children under 18

¹ UNICEF Niger COVID-19 Sitreps are available here : https://www.unicef.org/appeals/niger_sitreps.html

represent 267 cases or 8% (including 16 cases among those under 5). 18% of recorded cases were among health agents. Cumulatively, with 3,327 recorded positive COVID-19 cases (71% men and 29% women) and a total of 104 deaths (case fatality 3.12%), Niger has among the lowest number of recorded deaths from COVID-19, albeit among the highest specific case fatality ratios in sub-Saharan Africa (Africa CDC Dec 2020; WHO Afro Situation Report). In December, to address the deteriorating situation affecting the whole country with an increasing trend of cases since November 06 and a peak at the end of December, the Government adopted some measures to contain the spread of the disease, including the closure of all schools for 2 weeks in December.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

UNICEF provided support to the Ministry of Health for the prevention and management of SAM in children nationwide. In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, UNICEF strengthened, as part of the CMAM program, hygiene measures both at health facility and community levels to reduce the incidence of nosocomial infections and the spread of the virus.

Lake Chad Basin crisis

At the end of December 2020 (week 53), 20,304 under-five children suffering from SAM (representing 75.3% of the annual caseload) were admitted for treatment in Diffa region, including 1,381 children with medical complications. Compared to the same period of last year, it represented a decrease of 21% in inpatient and an increase of 27% in outpatient facilities.

Mali Border crisis (Tahoua and Tillaberi regions)

At the end of December 2020 (week 53), 96,281 under-five children suffering from SAM were admitted for treatment in Tahoua and Tillaberi regions, including 13,667 children with medical complications. Compared to the same period of last year, it represented a decrease of 1% both in inpatient and outpatient facilities.

Nutrition situation at national level

At the end of the year (week 53), 395,563 under-five children suffering from SAM were admitted for treatment (representing 74.2% of the revised annual target and 104% of the initial target), including 53,668 cases with medical complications.

In 2020, UNICEF supported the Government for the integration of acute malnutrition screening in the Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC) campaign. Over 4 million children aged between 6-59 months have been screened for acute malnutrition during each of the 4 rounds of the SMC campaign which took place between July and October. The children detected with acute malnutrition were referred for admission in the treatment programme. To further improve early detection of child wasting, UNICEF and partners also supported the Government in expanding the implementation of the mother/family MUAC approach. UNICEF also supported training for 237 health workers in IYCF counselling and promotion, and 262,806 caregivers received counselling on adequate IYCF practices. The delivery of home fortification with MNPs was integrated within existing IYCF programs and a total of 109,435 children aged 6-23 months benefited from home fortification with UNICEF support in 2020. Furthermore, UNICEF supported maternal nutrition interventions such as the provision of iron and folic acid, albendazole and sulfadoxine tablets to 187,872 pregnant women as part of antenatal care, and 89,713 adolescent girls aged 10-19 years received iron-folic acid through community distribution platforms.

Challenges were faced in terms of ensuring two doses of vitamin A for children 6-59 months, due to the COVID-19 situation, which only allowed for the organization of one round of vitamin A supplementation campaign instead of two. UNICEF, therefore, supported the Government in strengthening vitamin A supplementation through routine health services at the facility level, and this support will continue in 2021, alongside the organization of mass campaigns. In 2020, 5,431,678 children 6-59 months countrywide were reached with vitamin A supplementation through one round of campaign and 835,222 children aged 6-23 months were reached through routine health service delivery.

COVID-19 ADAPTATION

UNICEF continues to support the Government of Niger and partners on the implementation of adapted modalities to ensure the continuity of essential nutrition services at health facility and community levels. The Nutrition Technical Group (NTG), co-led by the Directorate of Nutrition and UNICEF, finalized the sectoral strategy for the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan which includes reference to the adaptation strategy for the nutrition response in the

context of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the lessons learned in the adaptation process of the implementation strategy for nutrition interventions is that diversification of community platforms is critical to ensure continuity in the promotion of IYCF practices at the community level. Therefore, more detailed guidelines on modalities for community-level interventions were developed by the NTG and partners and shared by the Directorate of Nutrition in August 2020 with Regional Health Directorates. UNICEF is supporting the government in strengthening community-level preventive activities while ensuring that Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures are respected.

Health

This year has been special, marked by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. It resulted in the suspension of certain activities at the health district level, because of the measures adopted to fight against the pandemic. This situation, combined with restrictions imposed by the Government due to security reasons, explains why the vaccination response could not be properly done (24 health districts in measles epidemic). Despite this context, UNICEF results raised to 28% of 110,000 targeted children, were vaccinated against measles, and the funds received were also used for other emergency activities such as Integrated Community Case Management in Emergencies, mobile clinics, Possible Serious Bacterial Infection in Emergencies, etc. However, the non-used funds will be carried forward to continue the activities in 2021.

Lake Chad Basin crisis

In 2020, UNICEF supported the Diffa region in catch-up vaccination activities against measles, the community monitoring of prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) through community mediators, the integrated management of childhood illnesses in a humanitarian context, as well as mobile clinics. 9,765 children aged 9 - 59 months were vaccinated against measles in the Diffa health district, as part of the catch-up vaccination, and 5,513 children under 5 years of age received preventive and curative care through the mobile clinics. Through the activities of community mediators, 79 exposed children were identified, and 33 children were discharged with a negative HIV PCR or RDT test. 10,674 children under 5 received care from the community relays in the health districts of Diffa and N'Guigmi.

The Inter-Regional Vaccination Agency Coordination Committee was operational this year, with some commitments made by the administrative and traditional authorities, in particular, the establishment of multisectoral collaboration frameworks to assess the performance of immunization at the level of the departments, and the establishment of a budgetary line in the action plans of the municipalities to finance the vaccination.

Mali Border crisis (Tahoua and Tillabéri regions)

UNICEF supported 2 health districts (Ayorou and Torodi) in accessing health care through mobile clinics. Thus, 16,360 children under 5 were received for preventive vaccination for malaria, diarrhoea and respiratory infections. In response to the measles epidemic, 21,090 children aged from 6 months to 14 years were vaccinated in the health district of Ayorou (Tillabéri region). An integrated management of childhood illnesses in humanitarian emergencies has been set up in the Torodi health district, with 880 children under 5 years having received amoxicillin-based treatment against pneumonia.

COVID-19 ADAPTATION

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

WASH

Lake Chad Basin crisis

In December 2020, UNICEF and the WASH Cluster actors provided: (1) 10,845 people affected by population movement with access to safe water to respond to their long-term needs through the construction of 2 water supply piped system and 5 handpumps in the municipalities of Toumour, Maine Soroa, N'guigmi and Diffa, raising the Cluster WASH results to 43,830 people provided with access to long-term safe water; (2) 1,820 people with access to

emergency safe drinking water through the distribution of water treatment products for household water treatment; (3) 2,517 people with access to sanitation through the rehabilitation of emergency latrines in the municipalities of Gueskerou and Chetimari and 24,565 people with hygiene promotion and awareness-raising, including sensitization on the COVID-19 prevention, in the municipalities of Diffa, N'Guigmi, Toumour, Gueskerou and Chetimari, raising the Cluster's results to 179,425 people (65% of the target).

Mali border crisis (Tahoua and Tillabéri regions)

In Tillabéri region, 12,728 people affected by floods gained access to safe drinking water through the rehabilitation of 3 water supply piped systems in Karma, Sirfi Kouara and Koutoukale villages; 22,862 affected people in Tahoua region gained access to safe drinking water to respond to their immediate needs through the distribution of water treatment products in the municipalities of Madaoua, Konni and Malbaza with UNICEF support.

In addition, 1,598 people affected by population movement were provided with access to sanitation facilities with UNICEF support, through the construction of emergency latrines in Abala IDPs sites (Tillabéri region). Furthermore, 51,217 people affected by population movement and floods were reached with hygiene promotion in Tillabéri and Tahoua regions, which rises the Cluster WASH results to 317,997 people (90 % of the target). Moreover, 598 malnourished children benefited from soap, household water treatment products and hygiene promotion with UNICEF support through WASH-in-Nut projects in the departments of Say, Torodi, Ouallam in Tillabéri region.

Other crises

In Niamey region, 5,586 people affected by floods were provided with access to safe drinking water to respond to their immediate needs through water trucking and 5,156 people gained access to sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion with support from UNICEF and WASH Cluster actors.

The impact of the 2020 floods was largely beyond expectations in terms of the number of people affected, therefore, at the end of the year, UNICEF provided access to drinking water to 150,629 people, representing 301 % of the target. Out of these, 139,830 people affected by floods were assisted with water treatment products at the household level instead of construction/rehabilitation of waterpoints, which allowed UNICEF to reach this result despite having received 41% of the funds required.

COVID-19 ADAPTATION

UNICEF continues to support the national IPC commission and regional COVID-19 committees to develop and implement comprehensive WASH/IPC activities as part of the implementation of WASH in emergency response, based on the adaptation of the implementation of Humanitarian Response Plan projects. This includes awareness-raising on barrier measures to prevent COVID-19 infections, training of health workers and hygienists, provision and distribution of handwashing devices and other WASH/IPC kits, reinforcement of water supply and sanitation in COVID-19 case management and other relevant healthcare facilities, hygiene promotion and monitoring of IPC measure in health centres. UNICEF provided the health ministry with IPC supplies and is supporting the evaluation of IPC measures in 5 regions (Dosso, Tahoua, Maradi, Zinder and Diffa).

Education

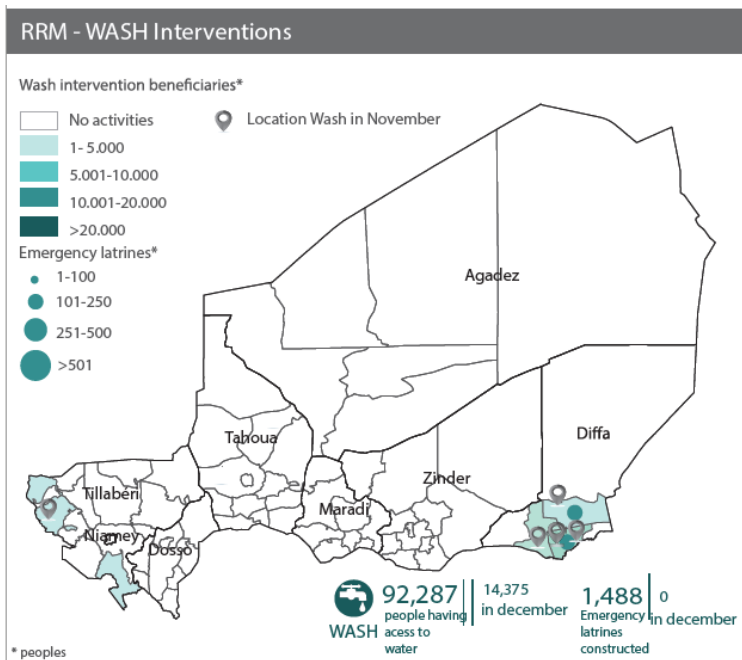
The school year started on the 15th of October, delayed by heavy flooding. UNICEF supported the Back to School campaign through focused messaging, including messages on COVID-19 prevention measures, as well as efforts to secure the school environment.

Lake Chad Basin crisis

Access:

In collaboration with its partners (COOPI International, CONCERN Worldwide, Plan International etc.) and the Ministries in charge of education, UNICEF has supported social mobilisation and community support to improve access to education for children affected by humanitarian situations by providing teaching materials, school supplies and semi-sustainable modular classrooms. In 2020, a total of 21,077 students enrolled in these schools are supported by UNICEF, of which 3,027 are accessing the 60 classes in temporary materials.

Quality:



The NGO COOPI has provided 156 teachers with mathematics and French guides, and 277 have been trained in the pedagogy and didactics of mathematics and French.

The NGO CONCERN has strengthened the capacity of 35 pedagogical supervisors in school administration and 105 teachers received training on bilingualism, among them 69 were receiving refresher training. In addition, 102 teachers received pedagogical support to provide quality teaching and learning.

Mali Border Crisis (Tahoua and Tillabéri régions)

The persistence of insecurity in the area, combined with the measures to limit the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, had a strong negative impact on education in the area. 274 primary schools and 10 secondary schools in the Tillabéri region remained closed throughout 2020 due to insecurity, with a total of 24,029 children (10,584 girls) affected.

Access:

In Tillabéri and Tahoua the growing insecurity in these regions limited children's school attendance. To solve this problem, UNICEF through its implementing partners (CONCERN and COOPI) supported 6,960 pupils (3,340 girls) in the regions of Tahoua and Tillabéri through radio broadcasting. It was facilitated by the building of 169 transitional learning spaces and the rehabilitation of 48 others.

Four community mobilisation campaigns on the importance of schooling and keeping pupils in school reached 52,807 people (20,818 women).

At the same time, 285 pupils (96 girls and 189 boys) in the first cycle of secondary education, from the closed school in Bossèye- Bangou and Kiki (Torodi department) benefited from the granting of a school scholarship for three months.

Quality:

UNICEF, through its implementing partners (CONCERN and COOPI), has trained 256 school headmasters in leadership and supervision and 755 teachers (270 women) in cross-cutting protection issues (psychosocial support, gender-based violence and child protection) to improve the quality and sustainability of pupil education.

As part of the implementation and support for bridging classes, 161 non-formal education facilitators have been trained in bridging class facilitation techniques and bilingual teaching with UNICEF support and 415 teachers have been trained in planning techniques. In addition, 12000 children have been provided with school kits and textbooks and two members of the cluster (ICHAD and COOPI) supported 19000 other pupils with studying materials.

National

UNICEF has provided the Regional Directorates of Education with 1,284 tarpaulin for the construction of emergency classrooms following the collapse of classrooms due to flooding. In addition, 300 school kits have been provided to 02 schools in the capital city of Niamey.

UNICEF, as the lead of the Education Cluster, provided technical and financial support for three workshops to finalize the Strategy to Reduce Risk and Vulnerability in Niger's Education Sector. The analysis of epidemics and pandemics as risks that can affect the education sector has been reinforced. In collaboration with the ministries in charge of education, the Cluster supported the COVID-19 impact assessment. The cluster also led the process of elaborating the Multi-Year Resilience Plan which led to the financing of a seed fund of US\$11 million over 3 years in the regions of Tahoua and Tillabéri.

The difference between the proportion of funds received (8%) and the proportion of out of school boys and girls (4-17 years) affected by crisis accessing education (94 %) is explained partially by the use of school materials which were purchased in 2019, but received and distributed in 2020.

COVID-19 ADAPTATION

UNICEF has procured 18,000 handwashing kits and soap to be distributed to schools. UNICEF also supported the Ministries of Education (Primary and Secondary) in the production of the COVID-19 manuals for teachers. The Ministry of Primary Education also developed an education strategy to support children for them to catch up after missing classes due to COVID-19, with UNICEF's support. The Back to School campaign has included messages on COVID-19 prevention measures, including flyers and short videos produced with the Ministry of Secondary Education.

Child Protection

Lake Chad Basin crisis

From January to December 2020 in the region of Diffa, 34,317 children benefitted from psychosocial support by Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) out of which 8,897 through UNICEF support.

On December, 2, 552 children benefitted from psychosocial support by CPWG members, among them 1,491 by the Regional Directorate for Child Protection (DRPE) social workers and partners with UNICEF support. 4,085 children, among them 2,085 through UNICEF support, benefitted from sensitization activities on child protection issues, COVID-19 prevention and access to social services. Restriction of movement continues to remain a challenge in some areas such as Bosso, Toumour and Gueskerou due to insecurity. On December 12, a gruesome attack took place in Toumour by non-state armed groups which killed 10 children (5 girls and 5 boys), maimed 6 children (4 girls and 2

boys). 23 children were separated from their families during the attack. Psychosocial support was offered to 110 children and NFI kits were distributed to those children in displaced sites. There is a need to reinforce community-based mechanisms to sensitize the community and react rapidly following attacks to ensure alternative care to children victims of attacks. Also, there is a need to reinforce information management, harmonization and verification of data. Most UNICEF targets were reached with the participation of child protection community-based mechanisms set up in the region; which allowed to reach a larger number of children for sensitization on COVID-19 pandemic and child protection; but also to refer children to adequate care and provide family reunification through local leaders when necessary. The involvement of national organizations allowed to reach areas not easily accessible to INGO and UNICEF due to movement restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic and security constraints.

Mali Border Crisis (Tahoua and Tillabéri regions)

In the Tillabéri region, 93 child protection community-based mechanisms (CPCBM), youth dialogues committees and women groups are operational in 54 villages in the region at the border with Burkina Faso through UNICEF's national partner. 582 members were trained on child protection. 211 meetings took place among the members and community-based mechanisms. 447 sensitization activities (on hygiene, child marriage, protection in emergency situation and COVID-19 measures) were performed during the month in small gatherings targeting 4,251 people, including 1,734 children and 99 people with disabilities (including 60 children). Another member of the Child protection cluster reached 4100 people (including 17 children) through sensitization activities. 39 children at risk (169 girls) were identified by the CPCBM and benefitted from social workers follow-up and psychosocial support. Three unaccompanied boys and two separated children (1 boy, 1 girl) received alternative care from host families. The security situation in the area remains a challenge with continuous threats against the population by the non-state armed elements, which has an impact on the partner to reach the CPCBM, but also on the re-opening of schools. Following the instability and threats against schools and parents, some families decided to transfer children to a locality where a school is still ongoing or to a larger city without risks of attacks under the care of family members or friends. Throughout the year and under difficult circumstances, UNICEF partners managed to adapt their strategies to reach children and communities. Child protection community-based mechanisms were key for response and referrals, sensitize against abuse, risks of child marriage, COVID-19 pandemic, etc. Child protection sub-cluster results could have been higher but there was a lack of reporting by organizations active in that region.

National Level and Other Crises

In Agadez, during December, the Regional Directorate for Child Protection identified 30 unaccompanied children (25 girls) between the age of 6 to 14 years old. All children received alternative care and psychosocial support in the transit centre under the management of the Regional Directorate in charge of Child protection (DRPE) and technically and financially supported by UNICEF. They were all reunified with their families in Kantche (Zinder region). The year 2020 saw an increase of convoys coming from Algeria with unaccompanied children to be reunified mostly in the regions of Maradi and Zinder. Despite the pandemic restrictions measures and lower capacity building follow-ups, the social workers of the Regional Directorate for Child Protection in the regions of Agadez, Zinder and Maradi were able to adapt to the situations, offer adequate services (for example alternative care and reunification to families), have access to NFI for the unaccompanied children in a timely manner while respecting COVID-19 measures.

COVID-19 ADAPTATION

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 and orientations by social workers through communications means to child protection community-based mechanisms. UNICEF partners continue to follow the COVID-19 measures while meeting with beneficiaries. During the year, UNICEF partners respected the COVID-19 pandemic measures but it impacted the strategy to adopt for psychosocial support as well as sensitization activities through mobility and family approach. Child protection community-based committees were more involved in sensitization activities and referral of children to adequate care since sensitization campaigns could not occur. For 2021, capacity building of the committees is to be reinforced to reach a larger number of people and ensure the quality of their interventions. First aid psychosocial support should also be reinforced to child protection agents and community leaders to support child protection actors and act adequately.

Community Engagement (C4D)

During the year, the presence of young people in emergency allowed to improve the quality of services delivered and to reduce violence among refugees and host populations. Interventions run by youth associations were Community dialogue, Home Visits, Radio debates and Peer sessions. The support provided to community radios, which wave accurate information, allowed to improve the accountability mechanism, as people could call the radios and reported on the quality of the service delivered. Community engagement is projected to be further deepened in 2021, including a focus on community leaders. A total of 253,278 persons were reached for 28,611 persons engaged in the implementation of those interventions, having 1,027 persons claiming for information or services to be delivered.

Lake Chad basin and Mali borders crisis (Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabery regions)

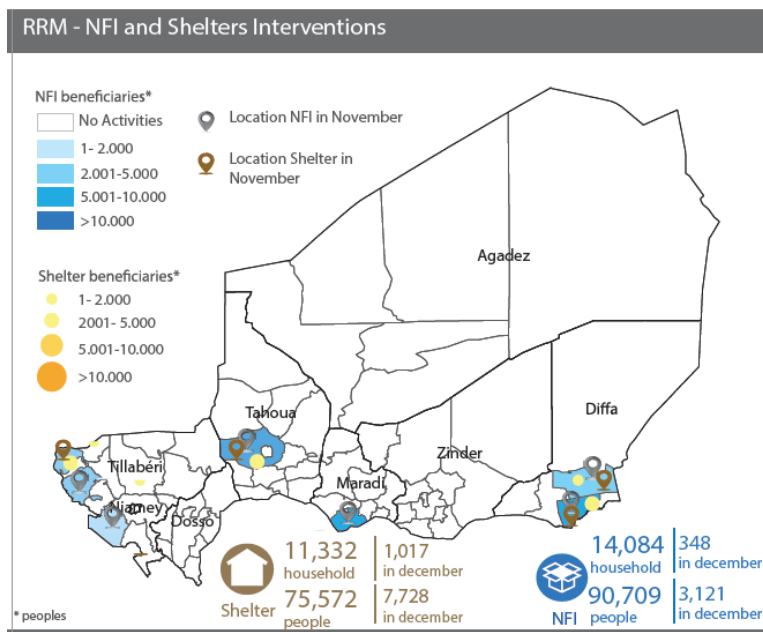
During the reporting period, community activities were performed to support peaceful settling, good cohabitation between host populations and refugees. Young people were the front group involved in this strategy through their organizations (ComDev, Scouts and Garkua associations). Youth groups led several sessions targeting young people. Around 253,278 persons were reached during these sessions.

COVID-19 ADAPTATION

Activities were put in place to strengthen COVID-19 community engagement and responsiveness vis-à-vis implemented interventions. Community leaders received more responsibilities in the prevention of the pandemic, to call believers, members of communities and women for respecting national instructions. Religious leaders promoted barrier measures, while leading COVID-19 sessions with a focus on child rights, in particular health and education during the pandemic.

Non-Food Items (NFI)

In 2020, the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) continued to be in high demand to respond to humanitarian shocks in the 4 regions in crisis and continue to be one of the major humanitarian mechanisms to respond to acute multisectoral humanitarian needs in the very first hours of the shocks. From January to December 2020, the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) recorded 133 alerts on the displacement of population and shocks, and conducted 101 Multisectoral Assessments and 09 rapid assessment, as well as 68 Rapid Protection Assessment in Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua and Tillabéri regions. In response to shocks and assessments, RRM actors provided RRM NFI and shelter assistance to more than 14,000 affected households for more than 94,000 beneficiaries, and WASH assistance to 92,000 beneficiaries, including 49,000 children. In the meantime, the RRM provided individual protection assistance to more than 1,000 people with specific needs.



Lake Chad Basin crisis

From January to December, UNICEF, through RRM implementing partners, supported 32,566 people affected (34% of the total RRM caseload) by conflicts and floods in Diffa region, through the distribution of NFI kits. In December, the RRM and UNICEF were particularly mobilized for the emergency response in Toumour, following Non-State Armed Group attacks.

Mali Border crisis (Tahoua and Tillabéri regions)

From January to December, UNICEF, through RRM implementing partners, supported 44,570 people affected (46.5% of the total RRM caseload) by conflicts and floods in Tahoua and Tillabéri regions, through the distribution of NFI kits. Humanitarian access continues to be a major constraint, due to the security context and government restrictions mainly in the Tillabéri and Tahoua regions.

National Level and Others Crisis

Since last year, Maradi region is one of the four regions where the RRM responses to shocks. From January to December, the RRM supported 18,771 people affected (19.6% of the total RRM caseload) by conflicts and floods, through the distribution of NFI kits. Since mid-year, the RRM has activated an early warning system on humanitarian shocks in regions where the RRM is not yet activated, to cover the other 4 regions of Niger (Agadez, Dosso, Niamey and Zinder).

COVID-19 ADAPTATION

As technical leader of the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Technical Coordination, UNICEF contributed to the finalization of the tools and protocols of the rapid response mechanism (SOP) to adapt them to the COVID-19 context and to be able to continue to safely deliver the humanitarian aid respecting the "do not harm" principle. This SOP has been revised to be adapted to the evolving context: the revised version was validated during the meeting of the Strategical Group held on the 16th of September. A light version of COVID-19 Sop is applied in the regions with no case reported during at least 28 days, while the complete SOP is applied elsewhere with a more active local transmission, as in the last months of the year.

The year was marked by several improvements on the RapidPro platform in Niger. A Database (Postgres) has been developed as well as interactive dashboards to visualize data stored in database. In 2020, the Child Protection and WASH components were launched in the Tillabery region. The Education component was meant to be deployed in Diffa and Tillaberi, however, given the success during its implementation in Diffa and the data collection operation to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, 5 additional regions were included. RapidPro is being included in the Data Governance Strategy of the Ministries of Education. Several training sessions were held around the country to trained focal points and stakeholders from the ministries: by the end of the year 886 people were trained (88 women). However, for some sectors such as child protection more training needs to be done for focal points (who sent data on regular basis) and its model of data collection revised to improve data availability. Undeniably, the tool is relevant in providing emergency assistance to children in hard-to-reach areas, specifically in a context of insecurity and pandemic. For the reporting period, a total of 284 regional supervisors (7 women) for the Education sector have been trained on the methodologies of sending data. 4,795 reports have been received on Education indicators. About WASH, 156 reports were received out of 249 expected water point reports and 70 alerts were sent and from which 52 were addressed. 32 reports were received on nutrition performance.

Sector	Real time reporting on alerts and the functionalities of services			
	Received real time report	Target real time report	Registered Alerts	Addressed Alerts
Nutrition	32	51	9	0
WASH	156	249	70	52
Education	4,795	-	0	0
Child protection	06	-	0	0

Humanitarian Cash Transfers

The year 2020 was characterized by the implementation of a humanitarian cash transfer strategy at the country office level for UNICEF. Notwithstanding the circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the first entry point for the cash transfer strategy was exploited through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). From the design of the cash transfer pilot projects to the first cash assistance in the Diffa region, UNICEF staff (programmes and operations) and implementing partners have benefited from capacity building in Cash Transfer, as were trained in Humanitarian Cash Transfer. Thus, for December 2020, with support from UNICEF, the IRC partner carried out a need assessment for IDPs in Mainé Soroa (Diffa region), following by a market analysis. 749 displaced households were targeted to receive multi-sectoral assistance through cash transfers (the distribution will take place in January 2021).

With the technical support of UNICEF, members of the RRM consortium were able to carry out the first market analysis in Ouallam/Tillabery. This will be followed by the targeting for non-food assistance through cash transfers in January 2021.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF responds to chronic and acute crises in Niger. UNICEF strengthens national health and nutrition systems to deliver emergencies services, including severe acute malnutrition (SAM) prevention and treatment, measles and polio vaccination and free health care for children under 5. UNICEF, in collaboration with the UN SUN Network³, also supported the Government in the preparation of a joint declaration on adequate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) in the context of COVID-19, which was submitted for signature by UNICEF and WHO country representatives, and by the Minister of Public Health. In addition, UNICEF facilitated an ad-hoc meeting of the Nutrition Sector Group to sensitize stakeholders on the International Code of marketing of breastfeeding milk substitutes in Niger.

UNICEF prioritizes access to quality school services for children affected by crises and building resilience in schools. Conflict-affected children receive comprehensive child protection services, and cholera prevention and readiness and access to safe water remain as priorities.

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, WFP and the government, and is responsible for the NFIs procurement. UNICEF is also an active member of the MultiSectoral Cash Working Group.

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

³ <https://www.unnetworkforsun.org/>

Human Interest Stories and External Media

The reporting period was marked by the publication of the HAC 2021 on the UNICEF Niger website and the attack in Toumour (Diffa region), included in the Executive Director global statement:

- [HAC 2021 - https://www.unicef.org/appeals/niger#download](https://www.unicef.org/appeals/niger#download)
- [Conflict - https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/statement-unicef-executive-director-henrietta-fore%C2%A0attacks-against-villages-niger](https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/statement-unicef-executive-director-henrietta-fore%C2%A0attacks-against-villages-niger)
- <https://www.unicef.be/fr/news/declaration-de-henrietta-fore-sur-les-attaques-des-villages-au-niger>
- <https://www.voanews.com/africa/unicef-calls-end-massacre-children-and-families-niger>
- <https://www.africanews.com/2021/01/08/over-10-000-people-flee-violence-in-niger/>

Next SitRep: January 2021

UNICEF Niger website: www.unicef.org/niger

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

UNICEF Niger Twitter: www.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	2020 target	Total results*	Change since last report ▲ ▼	2020 target	Total results*	Change since last report ▲ ▼
Nutrition							
# of children under-five with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment in a health facility	533,384 ⁴	381,700	395,563	60,383 ▲	381,700	395,563	60,383 ▲
Health							
# children under 5 accessing life-saving interventions through fixed, mobile and community-based activities	719,224	100,000	51,172	9,101 ▲			
# of children aged 6 months to 14 years in humanitarian situations vaccinated against measles	300,000	110,000	30,855	-			
WASH							
# people affected by population movements and natural disasters accessing drinking water	350,491	50,000	150,629	22,862 ▲	193,042	187,843	30,268 ▲
# people affected by an outbreak of water-borne disease accessing hygiene kits and sensitization activities	1,309,463	415,000	352,515	51,217 ▲	994,849	693,422	75,782 ▲
# of malnourished children admitted for SAM/MAM and benefiting WASH minimum package in the community	222,531	15,000	10,309	598 ▲	103,131	12,124	598 ▲
# people affected by population movements and natural disasters in Niger with access to sanitation infrastructure	350,501	97,000	69,906	1,598 ▲	272,359	81,173	4,115 ▲
Child Protection							
# of children reached with psychosocial support, including access to child-friendly spaces	432,925	30,500	15,719	1,530 ▲	46,442	41,206	2591 ▲
# of registered unaccompanied and separated children benefiting from family tracing and reunification services and family-based care or alternative care arrangements	N/A	240	168	28 ▲	555	268	28 ▲
# of children suspected or verified CAAFAG identified benefitting from temporary care and/or family/community reintegration support	N/A	190	99	-	270	99	-
# children affected by population movements benefiting from sensitization	432,925	105,000	55,469	1734 ▲	133,584	91,091	1751 ▲
Education							
# girls and boys aged 4 to 17 years affected by crisis receiving learning materials	260,430	155,000	162,227	43,585 ▲	208,344	176,707	43,585 ▲
# of out of school boys and girls (4-17 years) affected by crisis accessing education	260,430	34,500	32,478	-	56,000	48,328	-
# of boys and girls (4 -17 years) affected by crisis attending education in a classroom where the teacher has been trained in psychosocial support	260,430	136,500	54,755	-	208,344	57,412	-
# of children boys and girls (4-17 years) who attend schools with an up-to-date plan of prevention, preparedness and responses risk	260,430	136,500	45,908	-	208,344	45,908	-
Non-Food Items							
# of displaced persons provided with NFI kits	583,000	143,500	112,536	3,121 ▲			

Lake Chad Basin Crisis Response

LCB targets and results are also included in the "Summary of programme results" table above.

⁴ Overall target has been changed following the HRP revision. However, 2020 target of SAM are not yet updated in order to reflect the change.

		UNICEF and IPs Response			Cluster/Sector Response		
Sector	Overall needs	2020 target	Total results*	Change since last report ▲▼	2020 target	Total results*	Change since last report ▲▼
Nutrition							
# children under 5 years affected by SAM admitted for treatment in Diffa	20,041	20,041	20,304	2,416 ▲	20,041	20,304	2,416 ▲
Health							
# children under 5 accessing life-saving interventions through fixed, mobile and community-based activities	119,537	50,000	11,564	5,513 ▲			
# of children aged 6 months to 14 years in humanitarian situations vaccinated against measles	91,935	30,000	9,765	-			
# of children who have access to community case management in emergency in the Nguigmi and Diffa health district	57,235	10,000	10,674	1,218 ▲			
WASH							
# of malnourished children admitted for SAM/MAM and benefiting WASH minimum package in the community	11,115	3,000	-	-	5,000	1,416	-
# of people affected by the crisis in Diffa who have improved access to safe water to respond to their long-term needs	122,000	25,000	15,398	-	73,600	43,830	10,845 ▲
# of people affected by the crisis in Diffa who have improved access to safe water to respond to their immediate needs	25,005	5,000	-	-	15,000	20,842	1,820 ▲
# of people affected by the crisis in Diffa with access to sanitation infrastructure taking into account accessibility for children and the specific needs of women and men	163,590	25,000	4,095	-	98,135	22,687	2,517 ▲
# of people affected by the crisis in Diffa having access to hygiene kits and sensitization activities	458,497	50,000	10,188	-	275,038	179,425	24,565 ▲
Child Protection							
# of children reached with psychosocial support, including access to child-friendly spaces	229,220	4,500	8,897	1491 ▲	25,388	34,317	2,552 ▲
# of separated and/or unaccompanied children placed in alternative care arrangements and / or who benefitted from individual follow up	N/A	150	51	23 ▲	505	151	23 ▲
# of children suspected or verified CAAFAG identified benefitting from temporary care and/or family/community reintegration support	N/A	160	96	-	240	96	-
# of children affected by population movements benefitting from sensitization activities on child protection risks	229,220	12,500	29,677	2085 ▲	82,307	65,706	4,085 ▲
Education							
# girls and boys aged 4 to 17 years affected by crisis receiving learning materials	107,072	51,500	12,001	-	85,658	36,343	-
# of out of school boys and girls (4-17 years) affected by crisis accessing education	107,072	51,500	21,077	-	85,658	28,139	-
# of boys and girls (4-17 years) affected by crisis attending education in a classroom where the teacher has been trained in psychosocial support	107,072	42,829	10,720	-	85,658	11,841	-
# of children boys and girls (4-17 years) who attend schools with an up-to-date plan of prevention, preparedness and responses risk	107,072	42,829	8,858	-	85,658	8,858	-
Non-Food Items							
# of displaced persons provided with NFI kits	255,000	10,500	32,566	-			

Mali border Crisis Response

Mali boarder crisis targets, and results are included in the in the "Summary of programme results" table above.

		UNICEF and IPs Response			Cluster/Sector Response		
Sector	Overall needs	2020 target	Total results	Change since last report ▲▼	2020 target	Total results	Change since last report ▲▼
Nutrition							
# of children under-five with severe acute malnutrition admitted into therapeutic feeding programme in the border with Mali	97,867	97,867	96,281	12,451▲	97,867	96,281	12,451▲
Health							
# of children aged 6 months to 14 years in humanitarian situations vaccinated against measles in Tillaberi and Tahoua	105,055	20,000	21,090	-			
# of children who have access to life-saving interventions in the supported health districts (Abala, Banibangou, Ayorou, Tilia, Torodi)	86,454	35,000	16,360	2,370▲			
WASH							
# of people affected by the crisis in the border with Mali who have improved access to safe water to respond to their long-term needs	157,096	45,000	24,289	12,728▲	94,239	36,118	12,728▲
# of people affected by the crisis in the border with Mali who have improved access to safe water to respond to their immediate needs	59,600	5,000	30,814	22,862▲	35,751	42,234	22,862▲
# of people affected by the crisis in the border with Mali with access to sanitation infrastructure taking into account accessibility for children, and the specific needs of women and men	209,460	45,000	2,817	1,598▲	125,655	3,017	1,598▲
# of people affected by the crisis in the border with Mali having access to hygiene kits and sensitization activities	587,060	80,000	225,300	51,217▲	352,166	317,997	51,217▲
Child Protection							
# of children reached with psychosocial support, including access to child-friendly spaces	119,979	9,791	6,543	39▲	18,361	6,610	39▲
# of registered unaccompanied and separated children benefiting from family tracing and reunification services and family-based care or alternative care arrangements	N/A	50	71	5▲	50	71	5▲
# of children released from armed forces or groups who have benefited from community reintegration support	N/A	30	3	-	30	3	-
# of children affected by population movements benefitting from sensitization activities on child protection risks	119,979	6,000	27,134	1,734▲	36,021	35,228	8,252▲
Education							
# girls and boys aged 4 to 17 years affected by crisis receiving learning materials	68,784	14,000	92,680	12,585▲	28,000	112,195	31,000▲
# of out of school boys and girls (4-17 years) affected by crisis accessing education	68,784	14,000	32,461	-	55,027	32,442	-
# of boys and girls (4-17 years) affected by crisis attending education in a classroom where the teacher has been trained in psychosocial support	68,784	27,514	42,788	-	55,027	45,329	-
# of children boys and girls (4-17 years) who attend schools with an up-to-date plan of prevention, preparedness and responses risk	68,784	27,514	37,050	-	55,027	37,050	-
Non-Food Items							
# of displaced persons provided with NFI kits	178,000	56,000	39,373	3,121▲			

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Nutrition	26,460,000	16,747,256	1,944,076	7,768,668	29%
Health	1,410,000	1,268,370	144,000		0%
WASH	9,103,000	3,088,765	858,591	5,155,644	57%
Child Protection	4,212,000	1,021,340	618,110	2,572,550	61%
Education	12,635,000	927,063	111,537	11,596,400	92%
Non-Food Items (NFI)	7,183,000	3,291,111	2,247,658	1,644,231	23%
Cluster Coordination	1,188,000	1,577,345	564,343		0%
Total	62,191,000	27,921,249	6,488,315.53	28,737,493	46%

* Funds available includes funding received against current appeal as well as carry-forward from the previous year.