PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION
NIGER - UNICEF 2019-2021
Partnerships for children
Realizing the rights of every child, especially the most disadvantaged

- Every child survives and thrives
- Every child learns
- Every child is protected from violence and exploitation
- Every child lives in a safe and clean environment
- Every child has an equitable chance in life
Niger is a landlocked country situated in the heartland of the Sahel region with an estimated population of 20.65 million. More than half of them (58.2%) are children. Around 84 percent of the population lives in rural areas and almost one in two persons (44.5%) lives in poverty. Niger has one of the youngest and fastest-growing populations in the world.
Niger has made significant progress in advancing children’s rights. The child mortality rate significantly decreased over the past decade.

Substantial development in legislations, policies, strategies and national programming have been achieved over the past years.

Despite recent progress made by the Government and its partners, many challenges remain, particularly for the most disadvantaged children.

The country continues also to face simultaneous emergencies that are stretching the capacities of the government and humanitarian partners to respond adequately.

CHILDREN ARE LESS LIKELY TO DIE FROM PREVENTABLE DISEASES THAN IN THE PAST

The child mortality rate significantly decreased over the past decade from 109 to 85 live births between 2012 and 2017.

BEING ABLE TO GO TO SCHOOL IS NOW A REALITY FOR MANY MORE CHILDREN

As a result of significant investments in education since 2012, the number of children enrolled in primary school has increased by 35 percent. Enrollment in lower secondary has nearly doubled since 2012.

INCREASED ACCESS TO IMPROVED DRINKING WATER

Access to improved water services increased by 7 percent between 2012 and 2015, when 56 percent of the population used an improved drinking water source.

PUTTING AN END TO CHILD MARRIAGE IS A FOCUS OF GOVERNMENT’S WORK

The Government demonstrated its engagement to tackle child marriage and adopted a decree for the protection of girl-child in school to guarantee access and retention until age 16.

DESPITE RECENT PROGRESS, MANY CHALLENGES REMAIN PARTICULARLY FOR THE MOST DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN

Despite recent progress made by the Government and its partners, many challenges remain, particularly for the most disadvantaged children.

The country continues also to face simultaneous emergencies that are stretching the capacities of the government and humanitarian partners to respond adequately.
1/3+ adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 have already given birth or are pregnant.

38% of children were fully immunized in 2017.

10% of children are acutely malnourished.

42% of children under five years of age are stunted.

Only 13% of the population have access to basic sanitation services.

71% of the population still practice open defecation.

1/2 children aged 7 to 16 are not in school.

Fewer than 6/10 primary school students enter secondary school.

At the end of primary school, fewer than 8% have acquired acceptable literacy and numeracy skills.

3/4 adolescent girls are married before the age of 18.

More than 8/10 children have experienced violent discipline.

6/10 women think that a man has reasons to batter his own wife.

Just 6/10 children have a birth certificate.
UNICEF is mandated to advocate for the protection of children’s rights, to help meet their needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. Aligned with national priorities and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the vision for the new country programme is to support the Government towards ensuring that:

All children, especially the most vulnerable, enjoy their rights; adolescents and youth are empowered; communities and systems are strengthened and resilient; and humanitarian assistance and development address the structural causes of fragility and vulnerability.

**Modelling and scale-up of successful approaches**
Promoting national scale-up of successful approaches, with a focus on modelling sustainable institutional and community-based approaches for the most deprived regions and population groups.

**Policy dialogue**
Policy dialogue with the Government to support sector-wide approaches, effective multisectoral coordination and the convergence of programmatic approaches.

**Systems strengthening**
Strategic shift from predominantly service-delivery mode to more-important investments in systems strengthening and capacity building.

**Social and intergenerational dialogue**
Promoting prospective and child- and youth-centred social and intergenerational dialogue by involving multiple stakeholders, promoting innovation and fostering partnerships.

**Nexus**
Humanitarian response interventions with sustainable solutions to maximize contributions to national and local development plans.

**Maximizing opportunities for children** with a focus on quality, equity and sustainability.

**Promoting local capacities, ownership, accountability and sustainability**

**Mobilizing key stakeholders,** notably at decentralised and community levels.

**Promoting the empowerment of adolescents and youth**
The programme will support the Government to expand community-based health services and increase coverage and quality of health services to mothers, newborns, children and adolescents. The programme will contribute to ensuring that 90 per cent of children are fully vaccinated with three doses of diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis-containing vaccine.

The programme will support the Government to improve availability and use of quality high-impact nutrition interventions in the first 1,000 days of life, with a focus on preventing stunting and wasting through the development of effective replicable, sustainable and integrated models of service delivery at the facility and community levels. The programme will contribute to reducing the prevalence of stunting to less than 40 per cent.

The programme will promote access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, especially for the most vulnerable and those affected by crises. It will work to change social norms and behaviours of individuals and communities so that they take responsibility for maintaining good hygiene and sanitation practices, to reduce the proportion of population practicing open defecation from 71 to 50 per cent.

The programme will support the Government to improve access to quality education for all children, particularly girls and adolescents. Interventions will focus on strengthening the monitoring of student learning and improving teaching practices. The programme will contribute to increasing the proportion of grade 6 students who reach the minimum threshold in reading from 27 to 43% and mathematics from 28 to 45%.

The programme will promote adolescents and youth representation and participation in key planning and decision-making arenas. It aims to empower at least 3,000 adolescents to participate in or lead civic engagement initiatives by the end of the programme.

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The programme will support a holistic approach to strengthening protection information systems and case management, and will closely work with adolescents, religious and traditional leaders, community-based and women organisations and schools to support efforts to prevent child marriage. The programme will contribute to reducing the proportion of women (aged 20-24) married before the age of 18 from 76 to 72%.

The programme will leverage partnerships to boost budget transparency and accountability; advocate for greater budget allocations for social sectors; strengthen the capacity of youth and women’s organisations to claim rights and hold decision makers accountable; support mobilisation for a social protection system grounded in traditional solidarity mechanisms benefiting vulnerable children and contribute to supporting country’s statistical systems.
AVAILABLE RESOURCES $74m

RESOURCES NEEDED $116.1m

TOTAL $190.2m

- Social Inclusion $3.6m
- Nutrition $23.4m
- Water, Hygiene and Sanitation $24.4m
- Adolescents and Social Norms $6.6m
- Health $48.1m
- Education $22.8m
- Programme Effectiveness $37.1m
- Child Protection $24.1m

Total $190.3m

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for every child