

A photograph of a woman and three young children in a rural setting. The woman, wearing a red headwrap and a patterned dress, sits behind the children. The children are sitting on a patterned mat on the ground. One child in the foreground wears a plaid shirt, another wears a bright green shirt, and a third wears a purple shirt with a soccer team logo. The background shows a wooden structure and a blue and white striped canopy.

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SUFFERING IN SILENCE

MORE THAN 2.1 MILLION CHILDREN NEED HUMANITARIAN HELP IN NIGER

Cover Photo: A displaced family settled in a temporary camp in Tillabery, western Niger © UNICEF Niger/2021/Andriamasinoro

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CHILDREN IN CRISIS

Conflict, displacement, floods, diseases and malnutrition in Niger have put 3.8 million people, more than half of them children, in need of humanitarian assistance. UNICEF is calling for increased attention to their plight.



3,800,000 people
need humanitarian help
2,100,000
of them are **children**



2,700,000 people
experience food insecurity



1,600,000 children
suffer from malnutrition

450,000
of them with severe acute
malnutrition



300,000
are internally displaced

230,000
are refugees



1,900,000 people
lack access to safe water
and sanitation



640,000 people
affected by floodings



400,000 children
are out-of-school due
to insecurity or natural
disasters





Niger is facing a prolonged, multi-dimensional crisis, including recurring armed conflict, displacement, malnutrition, epidemics and climate-related disasters, including floods. The context is also characterized by deep structural challenges and the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.

Niger is facing a prolonged, multidimensional crisis, including recurring armed conflict, displacement, malnutrition, epidemics and climate-related disasters such as floods. In addition, the context is also characterized by structural challenges and the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19.

In 2021, 3.8 million people, including 2.1 million children, will need humanitarian assistance in Niger. Many of those in need are in hard-to-reach areas with limited humanitarian access.

Persistent hostilities between armed groups along the borders with Burkina Faso, Libya, Mali and Nigeria have led to significant displacements. The growing number of internally displaced persons,

refugees, returnees and migrants in Niger is straining the resources of host communities and increasing their vulnerability.

Attacks on civilians in the Lake Chad region have prevented nearly 266,000 people in Diffa from returning home. Insecurity along the borders with Burkina Faso and Mali have exacerbated needs in Tillabéry and Tahoua, where over 195,000 people are displaced. In addition, over 64,000 people who have fled inter-communal violence in northern Nigeria are currently living in the Maradi region.

Exceptionally heavy flooding affecting over 640,000 people has highlighted the country's vulnerability to climate-related threats, seriously undermining food security, nutrition and access to water.

In 2021, an estimated 2.7 million people will experience food insecurity; an estimated 1.6 million children under five will suffer from malnutrition, including 457,200 children who will suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM); and 1.1 million people will require access to emergency Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services.

COVID-19 has placed an additional strain on the health system, resulting in delays to life-saving vaccination campaigns. This may lead to rising cases of measles and polio.

COVID-19-related school closures have affected 3.7 million students, and nearly 400,000 children may remain out of school due to insecurity or damage

caused by flooding.

As humanitarian needs continue to rise, especially in regions bordering Burkina Faso, Mali and Nigeria, in part due to the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19, household coping mechanisms will be further stretched.

In this context of acute vulnerabilities, girls are at risk of abduction, forced marriage and sexual exploitation, while boys are at risk of being economically exploited for work or recruited into armed groups. Children without appropriate care, including children on the move and children living in the street, are particularly vulnerable.



Insecurity is spreading rapidly in Niger, and women and children are bearing the brunt of the violence.

Aboubacry Tall, UNICEF Representative a.i. in Niger



CALL TO ACTION

- Considering the increased number of people affected by the multiple, prolonged and complex emergencies in the country, meeting their needs is a challenge to the humanitarian community.
- The sharp increase in insecurity and movement restrictions consequently imposed by the government have hampered humanitarian actors' access to conflict- and crisis-affected populations already targeted for transition and resilience actions. Reaching those in need is increasingly challenging. UNICEF calls on all stakeholders to respect humanitarian spaces that allow safe and sustainable access to deliver humanitarian assistance to affected populations, including women and children, wherever they are.
- UNICEF is appealing to international solidarity to help the Government of Niger and UNICEF to meet the urgent needs of these populations and to provide life-saving support to children and their families in affected areas.



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CHILDREN IN CONFLICT

Whole villages have been set ablaze, health centres and schools ransacked, and entire families – including children – hacked to death, in a series of merciless attacks by non-state armed groups.



12 December 2020. A deadly attack was perpetrated by a non-state armed group in the town of Toumour in the region of Diffa (Lake Chad area) killing at least 45 people and affecting almost 4,000 households (20,600 people). It also destroyed large stocks of food, non-food items, water infrastructures and classrooms.

5 January 2021. Armed groups carried out coordinated attacks against the villages of Tchamo-Bangou and Zaroumdareye in the Tillabéry region of Niger near the border with Mali, killing at least 100 civilians, including 17 children.

15 March 2021. Unidentified armed groups attacked and killed at least 58 civilians – including six children – returning from a weekly market in the Banibangou department, Tillabéry region.

21 March 2021. Unidentified gunmen attacked the villages of Intazayene, Bakorate and Wistane in the Tahoua region, killing at least 137 people, including 22 children. The attacks took place as people were fetching water.

These attacks, which are increasingly frequent and violent, heavily affect children and their families, especially in the regions of Diffa and Tillabéry where access to basic social services is increasingly challenging. “The security situation in this area remains uncertain. With the recent attacks in the region (Tillabéry), which resulted in hundreds of innocent victims, we are afraid that similar events will happen here in Torodi,” says Salifou, a 40-year-old father of four.

“We know that many people are on the move, many have fled their villages to seek refuge in safer areas,” he said.

"It seems that these armed groups are even trying to recruit young people from the region to join their ranks. Young people are questioning what alternatives they could rely on to avoid being caught in the clutches of these groups, in an environment underpinned by psychosis and uncertainty."

"Our life is full of uncertainty. I wake up every day wondering what frightening news there will be in our region. But uncertainty and unpredictability also open up prospects for hope. We continue to believe that we will overcome this situation, through our own efforts and with the support of the authorities and their partners," says Salifou.

Niger's border areas are affected by the rise of new population movements and the persistence of unmet needs, resulting in the increased vulnerability

of people in need of assistance in the country.

This situation mainly affects the regions of Diffa, Tahoua, Tillabéry and Maradi, where non-state armed groups have intensified their activities over the past few months. Insecurity along the borders with Burkina Faso and Mali have exacerbated needs in Tillabéry and Tahoua, where over 195,000 people are displaced. Attacks on civilians in the Lake Chad region have prevented nearly 266,000 people in Diffa from returning home.

In the Maradi region, armed robbery, cattle rustling and attacks targeting civilians, mainly by non-state armed groups from Nigeria, have been recorded along the Nigerian border. Over 64,000 people who have fled inter-communal violence in northern Nigeria are currently living in this region.

«
It is hard to believe that children in the region have to live in permanent fear of such attacks. This doesn't have to be their reality. Attacks on children and families must stop, once and for all. Enough is enough
»

Marie-Pierre Poirier
UNICEF Regional
Director for West and
Central Africa



CALL TO ACTION

■ Children in conflict and displacement can be exposed to high risks: loss of their home and possessions, early separation from their parents, recruitment by non-state armed groups, risk of sexual abuse and exploitation, physical harm, forced labour, risky migration, lack of access to WASH services, health care, education and recreation, witnessing homicide, death, injury to themselves or their families. Psychosocial distress may then set in with the child and prevent him or her from developing to his or her full potential. Children need care and support to overcome such trauma.

■ The protection of children's rights in displacement is fundamental, whether it is the right to food, water, health, education or the right to be protected from violence, exploitation and abuse. They need shelter, food, drinking water, medical care, education, psychosocial and mental health, safe child-friendly spaces. All children have the right to these basic needs.

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EDUCATION UNDER ATTACK

Attacks on schools, students and teachers are a denial of children's right to education and threaten their future.

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"Bodies littered the ground; the assailants chased all the inhabitants away from the village, shooting at us and crushing us with their vehicles," says 10-year-old Adamou. "The fighters attacked, pillaged and burned the whole village, including our school and the health centre. The entire village was attacked. I was scared."

Months later, Adamou remembers the day in January 2021 when his life was turned upside down. He lived in the town of Tchamo-Bangou, in the region of Tillabéry, close to the border with Mali. The attack killed at least 100 civilians, including 17 children.

"In the past, these people attacked police stations and gendarmerie. Now there are attacks on civilians, on schools and health centres. Why are they doing it? We don't know," says his father Souley, aged 35.

"People have to move to find safer places to live, and we have to keep our children home because we are afraid to send them to school. Schools should be a place of safety, and no child should have to choose between their education and their life," he explains. Souley and his family are now settled in a temporary shelter in the city of Tillabéry.

"Education in the region was not easy before, but now it has become even more challenging. Several education facilities have been targeted. Teachers have been traumatized. Schools have been closed," he says. "Many children have had to abandon their education after being displaced by frequent violent attacks on their communities, and many teachers have been forced to flee to safer places."

It's not just the killings that spread fear and blight lives. The relentless destruction of schools in some areas of conflict is depriving a whole generation of children of an education. "My children are sad because they do not know when they are going back to school."

"We need to study. I hope that there will be no more attacks and I can go back to school safely. I hope that there will be peace," says his son Adamou.

The number of schools forced to close due to insecurity in conflict-affected areas has increased from 312 to 377 over recent months in Niger. Threats to school security were particularly acute in the regions of Tillabéry, Tahoua and Diffa.

In 2020, over 300 schools were closed across the country, affecting almost 22,000 children. Access to schools in these regions is restricted, hampering efforts to support children affected by armed violence. When education is under attack, safe schooling becomes impossible to provide.

Many children are traumatized by violence, displacement and personal loss at an early age. UNICEF estimates that, in some areas, up to 80 per cent of children may be victims of psychological trauma, potentially preventing them from achieving their full potential as adults.

"School should provide a safe space where children can be protected from threats and crises. Education is also a critical step in breaking the cycle of crisis and in reducing the likelihood of future conflicts," says Patricia Safi Lambo, Head of Education at UNICEF Niger.

UNICEF supported the government in responding to the displacement crises by enabling access to education in the regions of Diffa, Maradi, Tillabéry and Tahoua. In 2020, over 176,000 children affected by the security and displacement crises were supported for educational continuity in these regions.

By the end of March 2021, an additional 68,000 children accessed formal or non-formal education, including early learning, and 28,000 children received individual learning materials with

UNICEF support.

UNICEF is helping conflict-affected and displaced families reintegrate children into formal education. Where integration into formal schools is not possible, UNICEF works with partners to create alternative, safe and temporary learning environments for children.

"My dream is just to live in peace with my children. To be able to feed them, send them to school, look after them when they are sick and have a hut to live in," says Souley.

In addition to insecurity, the closure of schools due to COVID-19 restrictions affected 3.7 million children, up from 2.5 million children already out of school before the onset of the pandemic.

The closure of Qur'anic schools in Nigeria due to COVID-19 also triggered a large influx of talibé* children exposed to heightened protection risks. These children were monitored and returned to their areas of origin (Zinder and Maradi regions) in 2020.



Attacks on schools and threats to education are destroying hopes and dreams of an entire generation of children. The life of a child excluded from school is a tragedy of unfulfilled potential and lost opportunity.

Patricia Safi Lambo,
UNICEF Niger Head of
Education



** Talibé refers to children attending Qur'anic schools, often being separated from their families and communities and often earning their living by begging on the streets.*



CALL TO ACTION

- Attacks on schools are a violation of children's rights and of international humanitarian law. Schools should be a safe space and protected at all times. UNICEF acknowledges the efforts by the Government of Niger and its continued dedication to undertaking all necessary measures to ensure continuity of quality education for children.
- Niger's education sector requires more attention and investment to ensure that rural communities in remote areas affected by insecurity are not marginalized and deprived of access to adequate schooling.
- In a region facing increasingly complex conflicts and instability, education can never be considered merely an option; it must be acknowledged as a necessity, a matter of survival and a key to social stability.

CHILDREN AND DISASTERS

In times of disaster, children suffer first and suffer most. They are especially vulnerable to diseases, malnutrition and violence.

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"The river is flooding!" In Niamey, Niger's capital, 12-year-old Amina alerted her neighbours in September 2020. "The water is almost waist-high." Amina grabbed her two siblings and fled to higher ground with her father and mother. She was forced to leave everything behind.

"At around eight in the morning, I was helping friends who had been affected by the floods. When I returned home to check on my own property, the water was almost a metre deep in both my huts. At first the water came very slowly, so we didn't realize how serious the situation was. Then, very suddenly, the water became overwhelming. We managed to retrieve a few items, but the flood has left me and my family with basically nothing," her father Moussa says.

In 2020, heavy rains and flash floods devastated different localities in all eight regions of Niger, exacerbating an already complex humanitarian situation.

Like Amina, many children and their families who were hit by floods lost their livelihoods and were forced to leave their home. For her father Moussa, the biggest worry is finding a safe place for his family. They now face an uncertain future.

"Now I have to find a new place to live and work really hard to recover, but I know I can't live in the same place again, even though the land there is good for growing my crops. I'm too scared of the floods coming back. I lost everything and now I have to start again from scratch," he says.

Moussa and his family were relocated to a school that served as a temporary disaster shelter in the capital city. In their village, dozens of mud homes collapsed along the river, while livestock and household items were washed away.

In 2020, record-level flooding hit the country and affected more than 640,000

people, hugely surpassing previous years and forecasts. It highlighted the country's vulnerability to climate-related threats and negatively impacted access to services such as health, safe drinking water and education, over 145,000 children have seen their school affected. Seventy-three fatalities were recorded. Children and caregivers whose houses have been destroyed by the floods are at a heightened risk of preventable diseases such as malaria, respiratory infections and cholera.

UNICEF worked closely with the government to distribute essential shelter and household items to flood-affected families. Thousands of kits were distributed in collaboration with the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and the in-country Rapid Response Mechanism.

UNICEF also supported the government with tarpaulin for the rehabilitation of 478 temporary learning spaces where classrooms had been severely damaged. The support provided allowed

the school year to begin in October 2020 with only a two-week delay. Temporary learning spaces then accommodated more than 19,000 children.

To prevent cholera and other waterborne diseases, UNICEF rehabilitated damaged and destroyed water systems, providing household-level water treatment products, cleaning wells, and raising awareness among families and communities on basic preventive hygiene practices, in addition to bolstering health services in affected areas. UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs to boost their capacities in communicating with the population about floods.

In 2021, UNICEF is working with the government on preparedness activities, including the development of the contingency plan, the prepositioning of contingency stock, capacity-building and other actions.



Due to climate change and associated events, the scale, frequency, severity and unpredictability of floods, droughts and other weather events will continue to rise in the coming years and at an accelerated pace

Giuliaserena Gagliardini,
UNICEF Niger Head of
Emergency



CALL TO ACTION

■ We need to respond to disasters in new ways. The events themselves are largely unavoidable, but they only become disastrous when a population is unprepared or unable to cope. Empowering vulnerable people to deal with what nature presents is critical to improving their lives.

■ Larger investment in Disaster Risk education is crucial in a country like Niger. It is highly cost-effective and, most importantly, has a profound impact on saving lives and livelihoods when natural hazards strike. The challenge consists of mainstreaming a “culture of preparedness” and accruing the necessary financial investments, actors’ capacities and institutional support to maintain it.

■ Reinforcing coordination, especially at the decentralized level, and information management is key to achieving effective preparedness and improving the quality of emergency response.



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THE BURDEN OF MALNUTRITION

In Niger, 2.2 million people need nutrition assistance and over 1.6 million children under five are estimated to suffer from malnutrition, of which over 450,000 severely, exposing many children to an imminent risk of death.



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In Niger, 2.2 million people need nutrition assistance and over 1.6 million children under five are estimated to suffer from malnutrition, of which over 450,000 severely, exposing many children to an imminent risk of death.

"I thought I would lose my daughter. When I saw how health-care workers took care of us, I was hopeful. After three days of treatment Aicha started to eat and play again," says Khadjetou, one of the mothers whose children are being treated for severe acute malnutrition in Maradi, Niger.

Since 2014, Dr. Souleyman Kadri has been working as a vocational paediatrician in the inpatient facility for severely wasting children with medical complications (CRENI in French) in Maradi. "Aicha had rubella and she was very tired. She stopped eating and was suffering from malnutrition. After some days with the symptoms, we were

referred to the CRENI for urgent treatment," recalls Khadjetou.

Dr. Kadri acknowledges the efforts of health-care workers at the CRENI: "We are a team of committed doctors, nurses, nutritionists, assistants and hygienists. The professionalism and sacrifice of the team are unquestionable. During peak periods of diseases such as malaria, our staff is overstretched due to the increased number of patients in the facility."

The mothers and patients are immensely grateful to the health-care workers. "Aicha was very sick when we arrived at the CRENI. Her feet were swollen. She didn't eat. She didn't laugh. As soon as I looked at her, she cried. And I cried too," remembers Khadjetou with tears in her eyes.

"But when I saw how the health-care workers looked after us and the other patients, I was hopeful. They were with us morning, noon and evening.

After three days, Aicha started to recover. She smiled again,” Khadjetou explains. This is everyday life at the CRENI. According to Dr. Kadri, “We receive a lot of mothers who bring in children on the verge of death and who fully recover after we provide the appropriate care. You cannot imagine the happiness of a mother who arrives at the hospital thinking that her child will die and then after a few days her child starts opening their eyes, eating, smiling and even playing.”

A UNICEF-supported national nutrition survey based on the SMART (Standard Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition) methodology, conducted in 2020, showed that the prevalence of the global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate increased from 10.7 per cent in 2019 to 12.7 per cent in 2020, which is above the World Health Organization (WHO) threshold of 10 per cent. The prevalence of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) was 2.6 per cent, surpassing the WHO emergency threshold of 2 per cent, and was particularly severe in Diffa, Agadez, Maradi, Zinder and Tahoua regions with a SAM prevalence near or above 3 per cent.

The COVID-19 pandemic is having worrying impacts on household incomes, food supply chains, health services and schools. The current situation aggravates the difficulties many families already face in terms of access to affordable, healthy diets. Meanwhile, the restrictions on movement and the closing of borders have affected poor and vulnerable households in rural and urban areas across Niger.

UNICEF warns of a substantial increase in the number of children treated for SAM since the onset of COVID-19, due to the repercussions of the pandemic. The analysis is based on current food insecurity trends and other aggravating factors due to the crisis.

In 2020, thanks to UNICEF support, a total of 426,119 children aged 6–59 months were admitted for treatment of SAM in the country. During the first trimester of 2021, more than 80,000 children under five with SAM were admitted for treatment at a health facility.



Malnutrition is a major threat to children's health and development in Niger. Global acute malnutrition is consistently above the 'alert' level even during times and in places where no nutrition-related emergencies have been declared.

Roger Sodjinou, UNICEF Niger Head of Nutrition



CALL TO ACTION

■ Severe acute and chronic malnutrition are life-threatening conditions that impair a child's development and prevent him/her from achieving his/her full potential in adulthood. Apart from the impact on the individual's life, chronic malnutrition, which affects more than 40 per cent of children under five in Niger, is also likely to impact the development of an entire population.

■ Malnutrition represents a chronic crisis in Niger, requiring the government and donors to maintain a strong focus on interventions that address the structural causes of malnutrition. Nevertheless, investments in programmes for the treatment of malnutrition must be continued, to save children's lives here and now.



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DISEASES OUTBREAKS

As they are living in crowded shelters with poor hygiene conditions, inadequate access to clean water or sanitation facilities and little knowledge to protect themselves, children are becoming much more vulnerable to diseases, including vaccine-preventable and water-borne diseases.



Hazirou is eight years old and he is one of thousands of children who survived cholera in Niger. He still remembers the experience as traumatic: "I had cholera. I was told that in order to not get sick anymore I had to always wash my hands before eating."

"It took me two weeks to regain strength, I was exhausted. It was my mum who was with me all the time," remembers Jacoub, another victim in the same neighbourhood. The Andoumé neighbourhood in the Maradi region was one of the main affected areas in 2018.

Hadiza Guerou is a community leader in the cholera response team. She talks to us about her experience in the fight against cholera: "A single case of cholera already means an outbreak. In 2019, we recorded 126 cases of cholera at our health centre alone. We made a huge effort to raise awareness in the communities about hygiene and sanitation as

preventive measures against the disease."

Hadiza takes us to visit Jacoub and Hazirou's families in Andoumé. The mothers in the neighbourhood remember the experience.

"It was at night when my son had the first episode of diarrhoea. First, we used traditional medicine, but he didn't want to drink it. In the morning he started vomiting so we immediately brought him to the health centre. After several analyses, they transferred him into an area that was reserved only for cholera cases. He was treated there for three days," recalls Aissatou.

Hadjara had a similar experience: "Those three days were so long that I was not able to sleep. I was not hungry, I could not even eat. All my thoughts were with him. When I saw him in that condition, I thought he would not survive. But health workers took care of him.

When he recovered, I can't tell how happy I was!"

Since 2010, Niger's epidemiological context has been shaped by numerous cholera outbreaks, mainly in six of Niger's eight regions. The risk of new cholera outbreaks is exacerbated by the insecurity situation, which leads to population movements and the settlement of internally displaced people and refugees at sites in the Diffa, Tillabéry, Tahoua and Maradi regions.

In addition, due to low sanitary coverage and limited access to clean water, floods significantly contribute to the high risk of epidemics – including cholera and malaria.

Epidemic outbreaks in 2020 included meningitis (249 cases), measles (2,674 cases), and malaria (over two million cases). Nine cases of circulating type 2 vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV2) were reported in four regions (Tillabéry, Dosso, Tahoua, Niamey).

Niger experienced two waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the first positive case confirmed on 19 March 2020. As of 8 June 2021, the country had recorded 5,441 confirmed cases and 192 reported deaths. Of these, 5,135 people had already recovered and 113 are still undergoing treatment.

Throughout the year, COVID-19 restrictions resulted in disrupted livelihoods and lower remittances, affecting approximately 5.6 million people during the lean season. Seasonal migration patterns were also disrupted, affecting the most vulnerable groups.

Since the onset of the pandemic, UNICEF has been working closely with Niger's Government and its partners to step up the response and prevent further proliferation of the virus in the country. UNICEF supports the government, and particularly the Ministry of Health (MoH), in the field of risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), infection prevention and control (IPC), supply and logistics, epidemiological surveillance and health-care provision. UNICEF is co-leading three of the eight subcommittees established by the MoH (RCCE, IPC and logistics) and is an active member of the others.

Throughout the crisis, UNICEF has been working with partners to reach children and their families with vital health, nutrition, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), gender-based violence and social protection services.

As well as leading the procurement and supply of COVID-19 vaccine, UNICEF, together with WHO and other partners, is helping the country strengthen its cold and supply chains, training health workers and working with communities to address misinformation and build trust in vaccines and in the health systems that deliver life-saving vaccines.

In response to measles outbreaks in the country, UNICEF supported the government in organizing emergency vaccination campaigns, reaching over 30,000 children aged 9 months to 14 years. Vaccine responses were limited in 2020 following the outbreak of COVID-19 and the restrictions on mass gatherings. This response continues in 2021 and more than 35,000 children (aged 6 months to 14 years) in humanitarian situations were vaccinated against measles during the first trimester of 2021.

In response to the cVDPV2 polio outbreak in the Dosso, Niamey, Tahoua and Tillabéry regions, UNICEF provided vaccines, strengthened the cold chain management, and deployed teams to the field to support immunization activities. Over 3.1 million children were vaccinated in the four regions.

UNICEF is supporting the government and humanitarian actors in epidemic

preparedness. UNICEF places a strong emphasis on sustainable prevention activities in communities regularly affected by epidemics through the provision of safe water and sanitation infrastructure and hygiene promotion.

UNICEF is also supporting the government in conducting multidisciplinary WASH epidemiology studies to identify transmission contexts, strengthening community-based cholera surveillance and developing cholera prevention and control plans.

In 2021, two suspected cholera cases were recorded in the Maradi region, linked with the ongoing outbreak in northern Nigeria and population movements across the border. Multisectoral preparedness measures (water, sanitation and hygiene, communication for development, health) have been reinforced, particularly taking into account the rainy season beginning in June.



Addressing the COVID-19 pandemic is critical. However, other deadly diseases also threaten the lives of thousands of children in Niger. We cannot allow the fight against one deadly disease to cause us losing ground in the fight against others.

Guy Clarysse, UNICEF
Niger Head of Health



CALL TO ACTION

- Cholera is an indicator of lack of access to safe water and sanitation and the prevalence of inadequate hygiene practices. Cholera can be prevented and controlled if human, material and financial resources are mobilized in a consistent manner.
- The priority areas and actions required to control cholera in Niger are well known and call for vigorous upstream preventive interventions. Niger has a multi-sector strategic plan for cholera elimination but currently lacks the financial resources to implement it.
- The strengthening and effectiveness of community and local surveillance and early warning systems are critical for the rapid control of epidemics.

FUNDING NEEDS 2021

UNICEF requires US\$102.2 million to provide life-saving, multi-sectoral assistance to vulnerable children and women affected by violence and trauma due to the multitude of humanitarian crises in Niger. Without sufficient funding, UNICEF will be unable to reach vulnerable children suffering from conflict-related displacements or natural disasters with the critical assistance and protection they need.

The 2021 appeal is higher than the revised 2020 requirement of US\$62.2 million because UNICEF is expecting to cover protracted and new humanitarian needs, including increasing population movements and the worsening impacts of floods during the rainy season.

The 2021 appeal also reflects UNICEF's contribution to the implementation of the Government's COVID-19 response plan (not including vaccination against COVID-19). Requirements for health, Communication for Development and social protection services have increased significantly with the inclusion of COVID-19 response activities. Niger also requires additional support for nutrition, WASH, child protection and the Rapid Response Mechanism due to the rising humanitarian needs and the impacts of COVID-19.

This funding – particularly flexible or softly earmarked funds – will enable UNICEF to provide life-saving services and non-food items to the most vulnerable children and families in Niger, prepare for future emergencies, act quickly and respond strategically where the needs are greatest.

PLANNED RESULTS IN 2021

UNICEF and partners will work towards the following results in 2021 :



457,200 children

aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment



120,000 children

immunized against measles



80,000 children

have access to lifesaving health interventions



378,000+ people

accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene



788,000+ people

people affected by an outbreak of water-borne disease access hygiene kits and awareness-raising activities



125,000 children

access formal or non-formal education, including early learning



125,000 children

receive individual learning materials



5,000 households

reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors



75,000+ households

reached with cash transfers through an existing government system where UNICEF provided technical assistance and funding



152,000+ children

and caregivers access mental health and psychosocial support



3,600

women and children access gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and response



12,000,000 people

reached with messages on access to services



3,000,000 people

participate in engagement actions for social and behavioural change

Thank You!

UNICEF is funded entirely by voluntary contributions. UNICEF would not be able to deliver critical humanitarian assistance to children without the sustained commitment, efforts, and the generous contributions received from committed partners. We thank all our funding partners for their support and look forward to continued collaboration to ensure a better future for all children in Niger.

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