



FACTSHEET: NIGER

Strong political will to combat hunger and poverty

The situation

47.8 % stunting prevalence in children under five years of age

3.9 % population growth, with 84 % living in rural areas; and a fertility rate of 7.6 children/woman

Droughts and floods increasing in frequency and impact due to climate change

Rain-fed agriculture facing declines in the average size of cultivated land per farming household, pressure on land and forest resources, desertification and conflict

Natural constraints of a land-locked territory, scarce arable land, and arid and semi-arid climate conditioning development policies

Across the region and the country, the security situation is a major concern: it generated **165,000 refugees** mainly from Nigeria and Mali, and **192,000 internally displaced people**, imposing a substantial burden on the country in terms of resources and negative impacts on the sector due to the state of emergency

Reinforcing Niger's leadership

Niger launched the **3N Initiative**, 'Nigériens Nourishing Nigériens', in 2012: a cross-sectoral push to increase agricultural, livestock and forest productivity while enhancing the resilience of farmers and herders to climate change and food insecurity

From 2014 to 2018, the EU contributed **€552 million** to agricultural, livestock, food and nutrition policies, including sector budget support of €243 million

The 3N initiative, assisted by the EU through budget support, is **improving service delivery**, including of social transfers; agri-food advisory services and inputs; prevention services for children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women; water and sanitation; and information services

The support drives **comprehensive institutional reforms** through multi-sectoral policy guidance; enhancements to the management of food crises; inclusive financing; land use planning; domestic resource mobilisation; and public finance management at the sector level

Key achievements 2014-2018

More Nigeriens are food secure, rising from 31.2 % of the population in 2013 to 58.3 % in 2018

A better-organised institutional network is being put in place for agronomical and livestock advisory services, alongside provision of inputs

Increased access to water in communes and sanitation in schools and health centres has been achieved, with particular attention paid to women

Information systems are being developed for sector policy monitoring and intervention, including early warning systems, the National Information Platform for Nutrition, and implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Agricultural Information System

Coordination mechanisms are guiding ministries' programming, budgeting and monitoring towards the objectives of the 3N Initiative

Food crisis planning now includes a yearly national response plan to meet the needs of vulnerable households

An inclusive financing mechanism (FISAN) has been created and is being implemented

Land-use planning schemes are guiding sustainable natural resources management and conflict prevention

Lessons to build on

Good governance is key to address the root causes of food insecurity, malnutrition, and degradation of natural resources, through better articulated demographic, social and economic policies

EU budget support to Niger, linked to new results-oriented programming and budgeting systems, contributes to boost institutional reforms, improve service delivery, and strengthen the coordination and implementation of the country's own strategy

The agri-food system needs structural changes if it is to achieve inclusive and sustainable development objectives, prevent food insecurity and curb malnutrition

Continuing political will has to scale up to pursue a demographic transition-oriented policy, to promote agricultural and livestock inclusive development through innovative research, credit and counselling mechanisms, and to boost micro, small and medium agribusinesses through sustainable value-chains with employment creation potential

Urgent support is needed to target the **humanitarian-development-security nexus**

