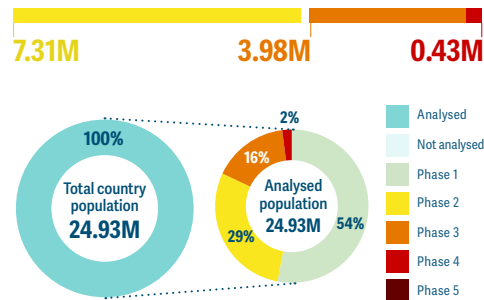


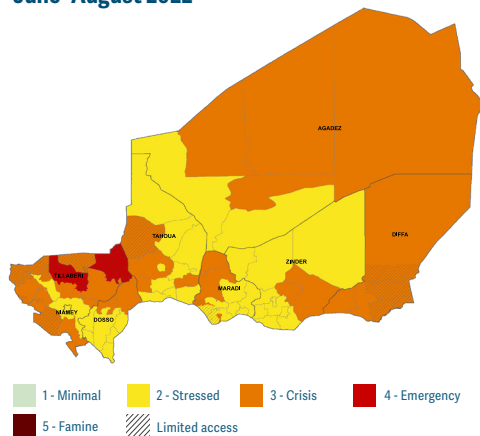
Niger

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PEAK 2022

4.40M people or **18%** of the analysed population in CH Phase 3 or above, June–August 2022



CH acute food insecurity situation, June–August 2022



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: Cadre Harmonisé, March 2022.

Food crisis overview

The number of people in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) during the June–August 2022 lean season in the Niger was 71 percent higher than the 2021 peak in October–December, setting a new high in CH reporting for the country. This represents an increase of more than 1.8 million people since the last quarter of 2021.

The deterioration is attributable to escalating conflict, and flooding that damaged crops, assets and livestock, as well as high food prices linked to the poor 2021–22 harvest and the war in Ukraine. Out of 75 zones analysed, two were classified in Emergency (CH Phase 4) for the first time in the history of the GRFC, 34 in Crisis (CH Phase 3) and 39 in Stressed (CH Phase 2) (CH, March 2022).

Improvement projected for 2023

The situation is projected to improve during the same June–August period of 2023, with 31 percent fewer people expected to be in CH Phase 3 and 53 percent fewer in CH Phase 4. However, the number of acutely

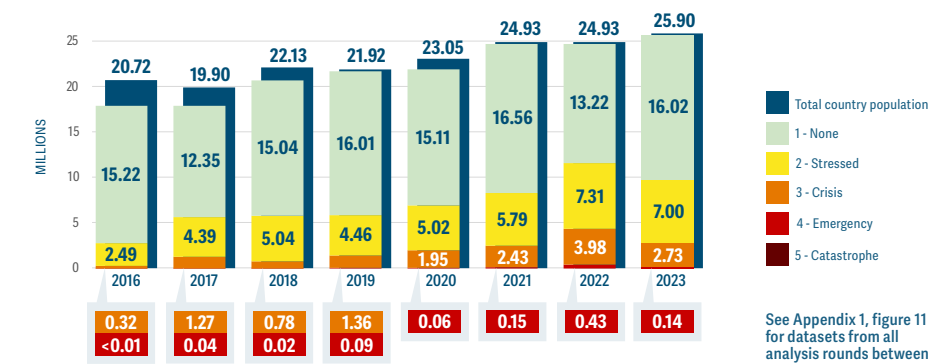
food-insecure people in CH Phase 2 will remain high at 7 million indicating their high vulnerability to shocks. Out of 78 zones analysed, 23 are expected to be in Crisis (CH Phase 3) and 50 in Stressed (CH Phase 2) (CH, November 2022).

Acute food insecurity since 2016

The Niger has qualified as a food crisis in all seven editions of the GRFC. It was included in the first three editions as part of the Lake Chad Basin regional crisis, due to the spread of insurgency violence to the eastern Diffa region from northeastern Nigeria. In 2020, it was included as part of the Central Sahel regional crisis, due to a worsening of security conditions in the Liptako Gourma area, which comprises the western Tillabéri and Tahoua regions. From 2021 onwards, it qualified as a major food crisis with more than 1 million people in CH Phase 3 or above.

The wide-reaching impacts of escalating conflict-related violence and internal displacement, as well as high food prices, cyclical floods, droughts, and the socioeconomic

Numbers of people by phase of acute food insecurity, 2016–2023

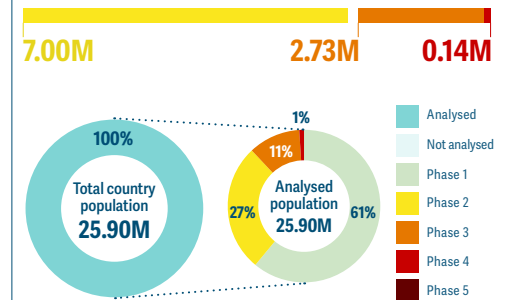


See Appendix 1, figure 11 for datasets from all analysis rounds between 2016 and 2023.

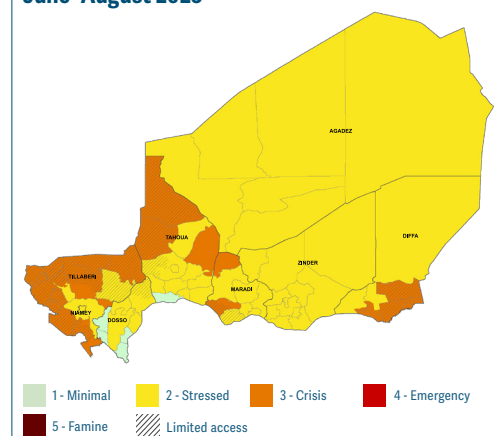
Source: Cadre Harmonisé.

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PROJECTION 2023

2.87M people or **11%** of the analysed population in CH Phase 3 or above, June–August 2023



Projected CH acute food insecurity situation, June–August 2023



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Source: Cadre Harmonisé, November 2022.

impacts of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine have led to an increasing number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity since 2019 (FEWS NET, December 2022). Prior to October–December 2021, the highest numbers of people in CH Phase 3 or above had been in June–August 2014 (2.2 million people) due to drought, flooding, violence, an influx of refugees, a cholera outbreak and high food prices during the lean season (OCHA, September 2014).

Drivers of the crisis, 2022–23

Conflict/insecurity The Defence and Security Forces operations in the Diffa region led to improved security, but a resurgence of attacks by non-state armed groups in Tillabéri region continued to affect agricultural activities, mainly through population displacements and by limiting access to land (FEWS NET, December 2022).

Weather extremes Between June and October 2022, heavy rainfall brought flooding, affecting 248 371 people mainly in Maradi and Zinder regions as well as Diffa, Tillabéri and Dosso. The floods resulted in the destruction of 2 186 hectares of rainfed crops, with Tillabéri, Dosso and Zinder suffering the greatest losses (FEWS NET, October 2022). In the Diffa region, producers along the Komadougou Yobé River, which burst its banks, lost most of their production for the fourth consecutive year (OCHA, January 2023).

There is a more positive food security outlook for the 2023 lean season, with cereal production in 2022 expected to increase by 65 percent compared with the weather- and insecurity-reduced output in 2021 and 10 percent above the latest five-year average, reflecting beneficial effects of abundant rains and the distribution of fertilizers and pesticides by the government (FAO, December 2022).

Economic shocks Food prices increased due to an increased reliance on food imports following the steep decline in cereal production for 2021–22, and the failure to meet import requirements due to lingering cross-border logistical bottlenecks related to COVID-19, poor security, and export bans of grains and cereal products in neighbouring countries, especially Algeria, Burkina Faso,

Chad and Mali (FAO-GIEWS, October 2022). The war in Ukraine further drove up international fuel, food and fertilizer prices affecting domestic food prices.

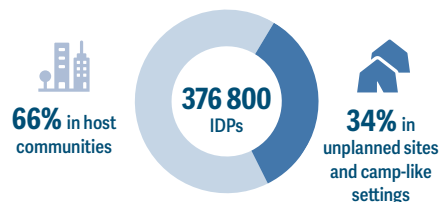
Prices of coarse grains increased by up to 40 percent in the 12 months to August 2022. They declined seasonally in September and October and were near or below their year-earlier levels by December 2022 (FAO, December 2022) reflecting the sharp production upturn in 2022. However, in Niamey and conflict-affected Tillabéri, prices were still above their year-earlier levels, mostly linked to conflict-related market disruptions (FAO, December 2022).

In early 2023, food availability was satisfactory in most markets immediately following the harvest, but low levels of carry-over stocks and trade bottlenecks related to insecurity and restrictive food exit measures in Burkina Faso, Mali and Nigeria still hindered supplies (FEWS NET, January 2023). Prices remained significantly higher than the recent five-year average, particularly in Agadez, Tahoua and Tillabéri markets, in line with 2021 prices (FEWS NET, December 2022).

A household survey carried out by FAO in July and August 2022 found that of the 80 percent of surveyed households that were engaged in livestock production, 58 percent reported decreasing herd size due to distress sales or death of animals. The majority (62 percent) faced difficulties purchasing feed (FAO, November 2022).

DISPLACEMENT

IDP numbers increased sharply in 2022



Source: IOM, March 2023.

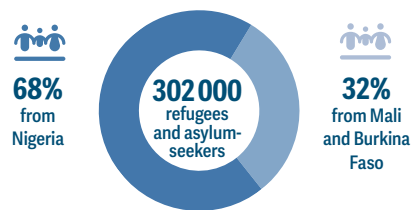
IDPs The number of people internally displaced in the Niger increased by around 112 550 in 2022 to reach 376 800 by the end of the year as people continued to escape the impacts of the

insurgency in the Lake Chad Basin and conflict in the Central Sahel (IOM, March 2023). IDPs, 56 percent of them children, mainly reside in urban or peri-urban areas of Diffa and Tillabéri, followed by Tahoua, Maradi and Niamey (IOM DTM, October 2022).

Despite deteriorating insecurity, over 380 000 IDPs and Nigerien refugees abroad returned to their communities of origin in 2022 (IOM, August 2022; UNHCR, January 2023).

More than 80 percent of IDP households reported food as their primary urgent humanitarian need. More than 70 percent of children aged 6–23 months were not consuming a sufficiently diverse diet for their health and development (IOM DTM, October 2022).

Refugees have fled conflict in neighbouring countries, 2022



Source: UNHCR, December 2022.

Refugees Nearly 65 000 refugees and asylum-seekers arrived in the Niger in 2022, more than half of them (54 percent) fleeing conflict in Burkina Faso and 39 percent from Nigeria, bringing the total number to over 302 000 (UNHCR, March 2022). The majority reside in the regions of Diffa (39 percent) and Tillabéri (36 percent).

Refugees continued to arrive at Sayam Forage camp from Nigeria, which hosts 32 587 people, as well as at other host sites in the Diffa region, seeking better humanitarian assistance and security. As of 16 December 2022, 21 300 Malian refugees and asylum-seekers as well as 16 400 Nigerian asylum-seekers and 3 500 Nigerien returnees had been registered in the Tahoua region. By the end of 2022, the capital Niamey hosted around 5 800 refugees

and asylum-seekers, mostly from Mali (UNHCR, January 2023).

Severe funding constraints in West Africa have forced WFP to significantly reduce rations for refugees living in the Niger (WFP, June 2022). Additionally, displaced households in Tillabéri and Tahoua lack access to food assistance distributions due to insecurity that makes these areas inaccessible (FEWS NET, October 2022).

The prevalence of wasting among refugees ranged from 5–11 percent, with the highest prevalence in Abala and Ayerou refugee camps. The prevalence of stunting was ‘very high’, at 33–48 percent. Anaemia levels were severe, affecting 71–80 percent of refugee children under 5 years, and 36–72 percent of non-pregnant women (SMART, 2021).

NUTRITION

Number of children under 5 years old with wasting, 2022



64 000 pregnant and lactating women acutely malnourished, 2022

Source: SMART, 2022.

The Niger continued to face a dire acute malnutrition crisis throughout 2022 – even worse than that of 2021 – driven by high levels of infectious diseases linked to poor sanitation and flooding, as well as poorly diversified diets linked to harmful social norms and high levels of acute food insecurity. Nearly 2.2 million children were estimated to suffer from wasting, of whom almost half a million had severe wasting (SMART, 2022).

At the national level, the wasting prevalence stood at 12.2 percent, which is considered 'high'. All regions had a 'high' prevalence except Niamey (7.8 percent). The levels reached 'very high' (>15 percent) in the department of Dogondoutchi in Dosso region and Mainé-Soroa in Diffa region. The prevalence of severe wasting was above 2 percent in Agadez, Dosso, Maradi and Zinder regions. Between August and November 2022, 43 departments were in a Serious situation (IPC AMN Phase 3), while the two departments of Mainé-Soroa (Diffa) and Dogondoutchi (Dosso) were in a Critical situation (IPC AMN Phase 4) (IPC, March 2023).

Between December 2022 and April 2023, the nutritional situation was expected to improve due to a drop in diarrhoea and malaria and an improvement in children's dietary diversity due to good availability of market garden produce. The estimated total number of wasted children was projected to decrease to 1.89 million in 2023 and the number of severely wasted children from 0.49 million to 0.43 million. However, the number of acutely malnourished pregnant and lactating women was expected to increase sharply from around 64 000 in 2022 to 154 000 in 2023 (IPC, March 2023).

Between December 2022 and April 2023, no departments were projected to be in IPC AMN Phase 4 while 32 were projected to be in IPC AMN Phase 3. Between May and July 2023, the nutritional situation will likely deteriorate again because of the lean season and rising cases of diseases (malaria, diarrhoea) due to the onset of the rainy season. In total, 42 departments are projected to be in IPC AMN Phase 3 and four in IPC AMN Phase 4 (IPC, March 2023).

At the national level, stunting prevalence is considered 'very high' at 47 percent with large regional disparities, ranging from 18.5 percent in Niamey city to 61.7 percent in Maradi and 51.7 percent in Zinder. Levels exceeded the 30 percent 'very high' threshold in Agadez, Diffa, Dosso, Tahoua and Tillabéri (SMART 2022).

Drivers of undernutrition

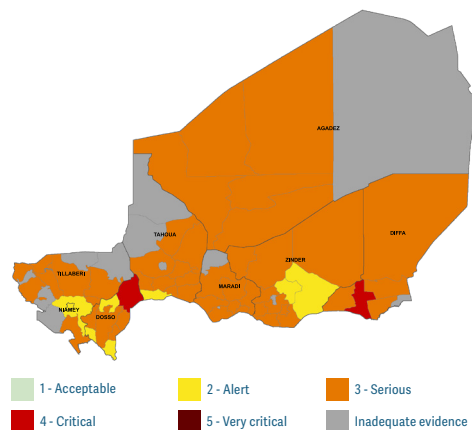
Poor household environment Low levels of access to drinking water and sanitation facilities contribute to poor hygiene conditions and high prevalence of infectious illnesses, such as fever and diarrhoea, especially during the rainy season (IPC, March 2023). At the national level, only 56 percent of the population had access to safe drinking water, and 13 percent access to basic sanitation services, while open defecation is practised by more than 71 percent of the population (IFRC, May 2022).

Inadequate maternal and child-feeding practices Exclusive breastfeeding for infants under 6 months is practised by only 22 percent of mothers, which is at 'Critical' levels, and around 56 percent are given plain water (UNICEF, 2022). Around 93 percent of children aged 6–23 months do not receive a Minimum Acceptable Diet: on average, they consume just three out of five recommended food groups per day (SMART, 2022). Anaemia is considered a 'severe' public health problem among children (55.5 percent are anaemic) and women of reproductive age (40.5 percent) (SMART, 2022).

Food insecurity and lack of access to healthy diets Extremely high levels of acute food insecurity, linked to escalating conflict, flooding and high food prices, prevented Nigerien households from accessing adequate nutritious food, contributing to both acute and chronic malnutrition.

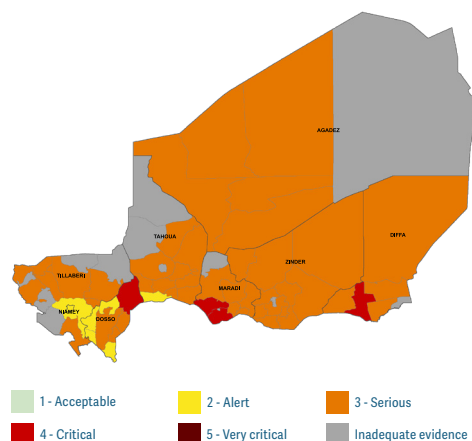
Limited access to health and nutrition services Due to insecurity, many health centres in rural areas have closed, services have been disrupted, or they face a lack of access to medicines (IFRC, May 2022).

IPC acute malnutrition situation, August–November 2022



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Source: Niger IPC TWG, March 2023.

Projected IPC acute malnutrition situation, May–July 2023



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Source: Niger IPC TWG, March 2023.