



© Johanna de Tessières/Hi

Country sheet

Niger

SAHA regional
programme

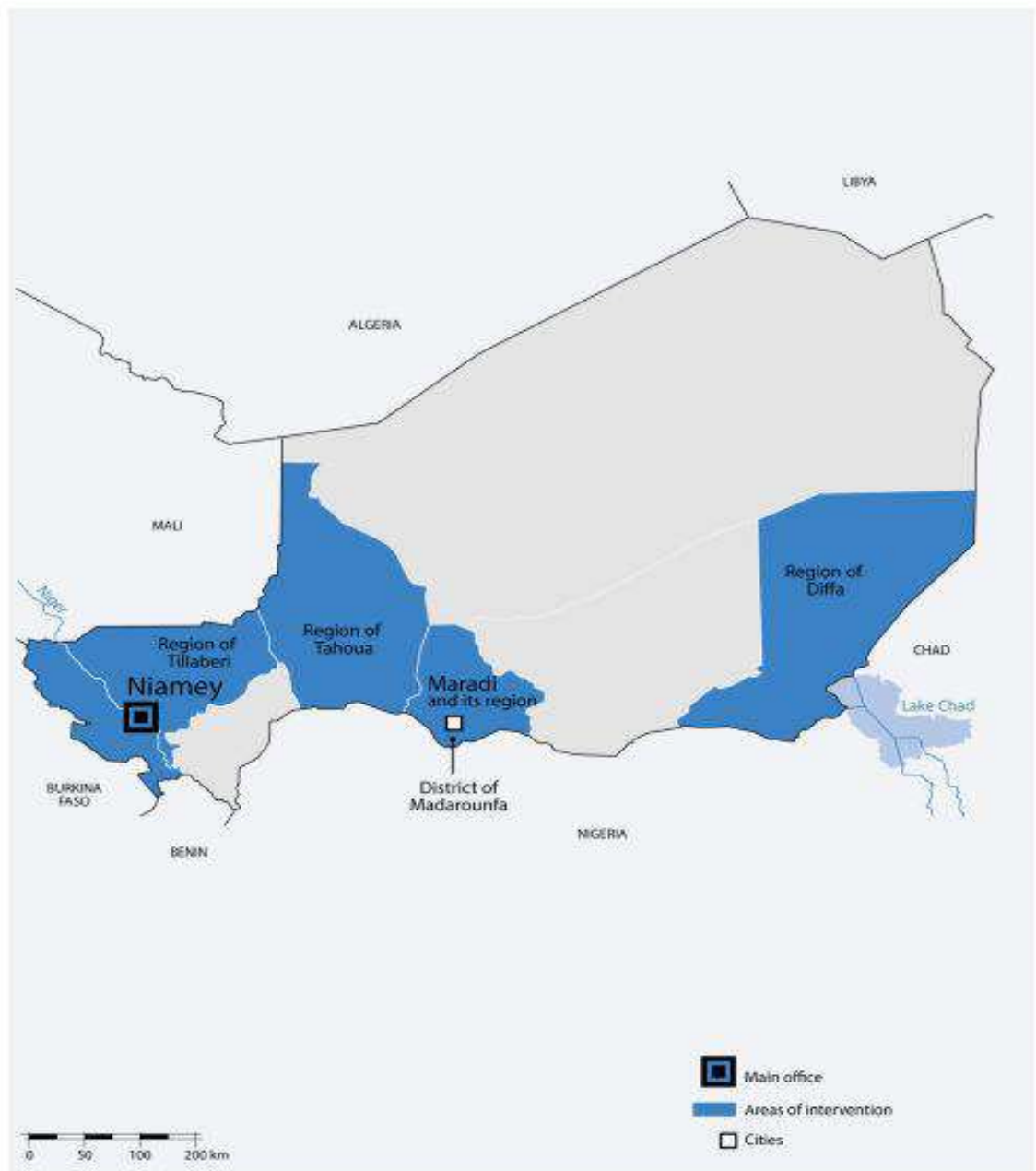




HI's team and areas of intervention

There are 103 staff on HI's team in Niger.

Niger





General country data

a. General data

Country	Niger	Burkina Faso	France
Population	26,207,977	22,673,762	67,935,660
IHDI	0.292	0.315	0.825
Gender Development Index	0.835	0.903	0.99
Maternal mortality	441	264	8
Gini Index	37.3	47.3	30.7
Population under UNHCR mandate	716,412	1,917,317	693,598
INFORM index	7.3	7.2	2.3
Fragile States Index	93.4	94	28.8
Public social protection	20.6	9.9	100
Official development assistance received	1774.9	1587.7	0

b. International law instruments ratified by the country

International law instrument	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	Ratification / Accession: 23.03.1999
Convention on Cluster Munitions	Ratification / Accession: 02.06.2009
United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Ratification / Accession: 14.06.2008
Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDEF)	1999
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	30.09.1990

c. Geopolitical analysis

Niger is located south of the Sahara, in the heart of Africa. It shares borders with Algeria and Libya to the north, Chad to the east, Nigeria and Benin to the south, and Burkina Faso and Mali to the west. Its capital is Niamey. With a surface area of 1,267,000km², Niger has three climate zones: in the north, a dry and arid zone; in the centre, a Sahelian zone with average rainfall; and in the south, a zone with heavy rainfall. Niger is therefore a country beset by drought and flood.



The country's economy is largely based on agriculture and livestock breeding. Education is a major challenge in Niger. With one of the world's highest population growth rates (3.7% per year according to 2022 data published by the World Bank), and with one citizen in two under the age of 15, the country still has one of the world's lowest school enrolment rates, especially for children with disabilities.

Niger is a landlocked country which tries to maintain good relations with its neighbours, on which its trade and security depend. Niger is a member of numerous regional organisations including the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Community of Sahel-Saharan States, and the Alliance of Sahel States. It is also a member of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the International Organisation of La Francophonie. Since the coup d'état of 26 July 2023, however, which ended the regime of President Bazoum Mohamed, who was democratically elected in 2021, Niger has in fact been excluded from several regional organisations, including ECOWAS and the African Union.

Niger has been instrumental in resolving numerous crises, both in the region and further afield, sending troops to Côte d'Ivoire under the UN mandate from 2004 to 2015, then to the Central African Republic, Haiti and Mali. Thanks to its relative stability, numerous land borders and links to North Africa, Niger has assumed significant responsibilities in recent years in the fight against armed groups in the Sahel and in providing asylum and protection for refugees of various nationalities. Niger has experienced successive and significant waves of population displacement over the past few years.

Bordering Mali, Chad and Nigeria, Niger is subject to the security tensions of its neighbours and to incursions by armed groups into its territory. The security situation has deteriorated sharply and continuously since 2019, with an intensification of attacks by armed groups, not just against its defence and security forces, but especially against the civilian population.

People with disabilities are still highly stigmatised in Niger. According to popular perceptions and representations, disability is generally equated with both incapacity and impairment. Negative perceptions and attitudes are still the biggest obstacle to successful social integration and access to goods for people with disabilities. Many families use children with disabilities to earn money from begging, depriving them of their right to education and training. Another phenomenon is the "use" of the children of people with disabilities and the children of poor families as guides, which keeps families in constant poverty and compounds the lack of prospects for these children and adolescents.



Summary of HI's work in the country

After conducting an exploratory mission and preparing two projects (a pilot education project, and disability and citizenship project), HI opened an office in Niamey in May 2006. The organisation was registered in 2007 and has signed a framework agreement with the government of Niger. Two regional projects were subsequently developed in Niger in 2008 and 2012.

The scope of the organisation's work started to expand in 2012 with food security, resilience and armed violence reduction projects in Agadez, followed in 2015 with a project to prevent and reduce the risk of complications and disabling sequelae in children aged under 5 suffering from malnutrition or delayed development. In 2016, a new project brought the training programme for the country's physiotherapists up to date and provided the l'Association des physiothérapeutes du Niger [Nigerien Physiotherapy Association] with training materials.

In 2017, after carrying out a study to evaluate the effectiveness of the computer modelling and 3D-printing of prostheses, HI fitted its first patients with prostheses as part of the regional IMPACT 3D project. HI developed a project to assist urban refugees and asylum seekers in the city of Niamey between 2015 and 2021. Actions to secure populations living near stockpiles of weapons and munitions were rolled out in partnership with the National Commission for the Collection and Control of Illicit Arms between 2014 and 2021.

HI is currently supporting vulnerable populations in Niger (people with disabilities affected by humanitarian responses in Diffa and Maradi), and is also carrying out inclusion support actions at central level in various clusters and working groups. In 2021, in response to the need to protect populations in conflict-affected areas, HI launched two projects to educate people about the risks posed by explosives and munitions, and to prevent the multiple violations endured by vulnerable populations. Through its inclusive education project, HI is helping children with disabilities to access and remain in primary and secondary education. HI entered into a partnership with the Fédération nigérienne des personnes handicapées [Nigerien Federation of Disabled Persons] to implement a project to promote the social and legal inclusion of women and children with disabilities in Niger. Since late 2019, HI has been running a project to boost the resilience and social cohesion of vulnerable populations in cross-border regions. Despite the COVID-19 health crisis, HI has been able to adapt its ongoing activities to address the needs of vulnerable people. Since 2021, HI has been implementing emergency response activities for basic needs in Maradi and Tillabéry.



Overview of current projects

Sectors in which HI is running projects with a focus on beneficiaries and partners

Project title and main intervention sector(s)	Principal activities	Beneficiaries	Partners	Location	Project start and end dates	Institutional donors
Inclusive Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity-building (teachers, educational advisors, school committees, parents' associations, organisations of people with disabilities) • Identification/care and follow-up of children with disabilities • Raising community awareness of inclusive education • Work on the accessibility of buildings • Support for families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,042 children with disabilities • 656 teachers • 635 community actors • 8 schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministère de l'éducation, Santé publique et de la population [Ministry of Education, Public Health and Population] • Nigerien Federation of Disabled Persons • Committees for decentralised school management • Association nationale des parents d'enfants et d'étudiants [National association of parents of children and students] 	Niamey Maradi Tahoua	01.2023 – 12.2026	Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
Armed Violence Reduction Education on the risks posed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining risk-education strategies and tools • Organising risk-education sessions • Risk-education training for community leaders, teachers and administration managers 	20,000 people reached by risk-education awareness activities	National Commission for the Collection and Control of Illicit Arms	Diffa Tillabéry	06.2021 – 12.2023	GFFO



<p>by explosives and munitions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building the capacities of the National Commission for the Collection and Control of Illicit Arms in order to develop a risk-education and information-management strategy • Risk education for humanitarian aid workers (drivers and field staff) 					
<p>Inclusive Humanitarian Action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training trainers for the technical inclusion team • Supporting organisations of people with disabilities • Training/coaching of humanitarian actors, authorities and technical services on disability and inclusive planning for local development • Data gathering and advocacy for humanitarian action • Raising community awareness of social inclusion • Evaluation of infrastructure accessibility • Survey of the institutional capacities of municipalities, support for civil documentation, setting up citizen monitoring committees • Carrying out studies on access barriers to humanitarian aid for people with disabilities • Awareness-raising and capacity-building on the inclusion of people at risk of exclusion from the humanitarian response • Building the inclusiveness capacities of humanitarian actors 	<p>5,240 people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,400 community members including 625 people with disabilities • 161 elected officials and technical-service managers • 37 humanitarian actors (15 in Niamey and 22 in Diffa) • 1,000 people (young women and older people) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nigerien Federation of Disabled Persons • NGOs • Local authorities 	<p>Diffa Maradi Niamey Tillabéry</p>	<p>01.2021 – 12.2023</p>	<p>GFFO, Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and boosting organisations of people with disabilities, young people, women and older people • Identification, referral, guidance and the provision of technical aids and psychosocial support to people with specific needs • Establishing mechanisms for inclusion and raising community awareness of the respect for diversity, social cohesion and inclusion in order to prevent exclusion 					
RECOSA Economic inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out participatory studies on vulnerability and capacities, and supporting the implementation of community projects • Implementation of community projects • Cash transfers • Transfers of productive assets (income-generating activities, livestock, agricultural inputs) • Setting up village saving and loan associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,000 households benefit from cash transfers • 5,830 people involved in savings and loan actions • 400 very poor households benefit from Cash for Work • 50 livestock assistants trained/equipped • 50 people helped to join the livestock-meat chain 	Direction régionale de l’agriculture et de l’élevage [Regional directorate of agriculture and livestock]; The local authorities of Anzourou, Dargol, Diagougou, Sakoira; Direction régionale en charge des affaires humanitaires [Regional directorate for humanitarian affairs]	Tillabéry	12.2019 – 12.2023	European Union
PAPIRUS Protection from violence and abuse, Shelter and non-food items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training local actors on inclusion, protection, mental health, stress management and psychological first aid • Raising awareness of mental health, stress management and adaptation strategies among leaders and conflict-affected populations • Distributions to cover basic needs: multi-purpose cash transfers, vouchers, in-kind 	The population of affected areas, community leaders, local authorities	Nigerien Federation of Disabled Persons Local authorities, NGOs	Tillabéry region	11.2021 – 10.2023	DGD



	<p>donations, shelter; distribution of adapted kits and technical mobility aids for people with disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up a protective listening and play space (Centre d'Écoute et de Jeu) for adults and children in psychological distress 					
<p>Emergency response (food and nutritional security, inclusiveness) to the urgent needs of vulnerable populations affected by the food crisis in the Maradi region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of food aid in cash or vouchers to the most vulnerable households • Information and awareness-raising to promote safe food practices in order to reduce health risks • Identification and referral of cases of moderate or severe acute malnutrition • Refurbishing and equipping six stimulation spaces • Training health workers on signs of delayed development and risk factors, stimulation therapy, the role of play, the caregiver-child relationship, the parent-child relationship, and the role of mother-educators • Providing collective stimulation sessions for malnourished children and stimulation therapy in individual sessions • Providing monitoring and referral mechanisms for children with severe acute malnutrition and disabilities • Mobilisation and capacity-building of community actors: awareness-raising and community activity programmes, home visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food security: 650 households (3,900 people) • Stimulation therapy: Collective stimulation: 1,500 malnourished children aged 6-59 months and their families • Health workers 	<p>Direction Générale de la santé publique [Directorate-General of Public Health]; Direction de l'organisation des soins [Directorate for the organisation of care]; Association des kinésithérapeutes du Niger [Nigerien Physiotherapy Association]; Nigerien Federation of Disabled Persons</p>	<p>Maradi region, departments of Madarounfa and Mayahi</p>	<p>02.2023 – 04.2023 01.2024 – 03.2024</p>	



<p>Reducing the risk of developing debilitating sequelae linked to malnutrition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping to validate the national protocol for the care of malnourished children • Setting up a coordination mechanism for “physical and functional rehabilitation” actors • Helping with the publications of the African Federation of Rehabilitation Professionals • Purchasing toys and physiotherapy equipment • Training 100 health workers in 4 sessions • Production of Blue Box tools • Organising awareness-raising sessions in communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18,000 people cared for by rehabilitation services • 70% of child/young people users increase their functionality level • 6 institutional coordination mechanisms include rehabilitation • A strategic plan for physical and functional rehabilitation is drafted • 1 stimulation therapy module included in malnutrition management training • 100 professionals in the fields of healthcare/rehabilitation acquire the necessary skills to care for children with disabilities • At least 75% of children with severe acute malnutrition admitted to target nutrition services receive stimulatory care • 30 integrated health facilities have a guide for the functional assessment of the newborn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction Générale de la santé publique [Directorate-General of Public Health] • Direction de l’organisation des soins [Directorate for the organisation of care] • Nigerien Physiotherapy Association • Nigerien Federation of Disabled Persons 	<p>Maradi</p>	<p>01.2022 – 12.2026</p>	<p>DGD</p>
--	---	--	---	---------------	--------------------------	------------



		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A mechanism for early identification, referral, care and functional follow-up• 200 patients received a grant for the management of their functional rehabilitation care• Study of access barriers for people with disabilities and other people at risk of exclusion• Organisations helped to make their activities inclusive				
--	--	--	--	--	--	--



Donors

<p>EU</p>  <p>Financé par l'Union européenne</p>	<p>DGD</p>  <p>Belgique partenaire du développement</p>	<p>Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs</p>  <p>LUXEMBOURG AID & DEVELOPMENT</p>
	<p>GFFO</p>  <p>german humanitarian assistance DEUTSCHE HUMANITÄRE HILFE</p>	