

Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

Niger

May 2010

Key Messages

- **Current food prices in the country are still high.**
- **Insecurity and political tension coupled by the extended drought has resulted in decreased output thereby deteriorating food insecurity conditions.**
- **The country is experiencing a prolonged food crisis and 7.8 million people are estimated at high risk of food insecurity.**
- **The government is applying safety net measures to support the most vulnerable people hit by the food crisis.**

Background

Niger's total population in 2008 was 14.66 million and the growth rate per annum was 3%. In 2005, 65% of the population was estimated to be below the poverty line of 1\$ PPP per day and 29% was reported as undernourished.

Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population - 2008 (WB)	14668743
Population growth rate - 2008 (WB)	3%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP - 2008 (WB)	680
Population below 1\$ PPP per day - 2005 (MDGI)	65%
Rural population - 2007 (WB)	84%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2003 (WB)	39%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2005 (FAO)	29%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption - 2005 (FAO)	66%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption - 2005 (FAO)	2%

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2006 (WHO)	7%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2006 (WHO)	42
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2006 (WHO)	42%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years - 2005 (WHO)	0%

Prices

Cereals: Local millet wholesale prices in Niamey market have increased from 180 CFA/Kg in Dec 2009 to 200 CFA/Kg in March 2010. In April prices slightly fell to 190 CFA/Kg but increased to 220 CFA in May. Local sorghum wholesale prices have shown a volatile trend in Niamey, increasing to 170 CFA/Kg in March, then declining to 165 CFA/Kg in April and then rising again to 175 CFA/Kg in May. Sorghum prices in Niamey in April (332.21 USD/T) were more than double (107%) the international prices of US Sorghum No2 Yellow, US Gulf (160.44 USD/T).

Livestock: On the other hand, livestock prices have declined sharply leading to significant deterioration of the terms-of-trade for pastoralists.

Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

The military coup in late February removed President Tandja and dissolved the government fuelling a political crisis and increasing security risks in the country. In addition, poor rains and economic hardship hit farmers and herders hard and led to an escalation of communal violence in northern Niger; more than 100,000 people were affected and forced to temporarily leave their homes. The situation was particularly dire in north-western Niger, especially in the Ouallam and Filingué departments of the Tillabéri region and in the mountainous Air region, north of Agadez.

Refugees and IDPs	2006	2007	2008
Total in the country	337	338	344
Total outside the country	1291	1104	1067

Source: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 22/10/2009.

Disaster Type (last year)	Date	Location	Alert
Flood	2009-09-21	Agadez	1/3
No Earthquakes	-	-	-

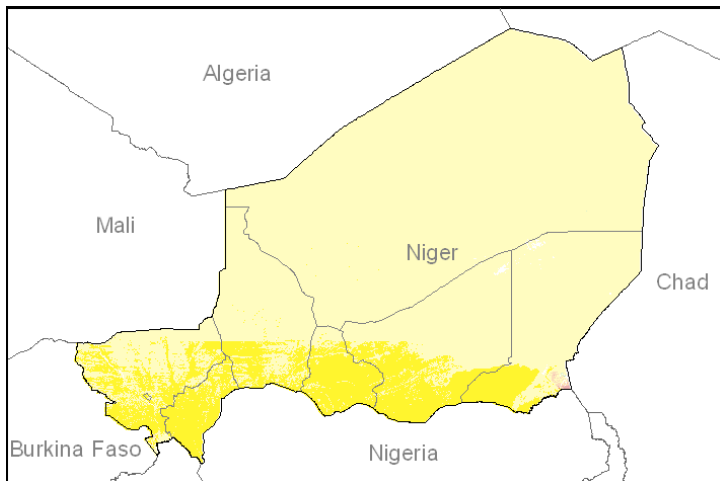
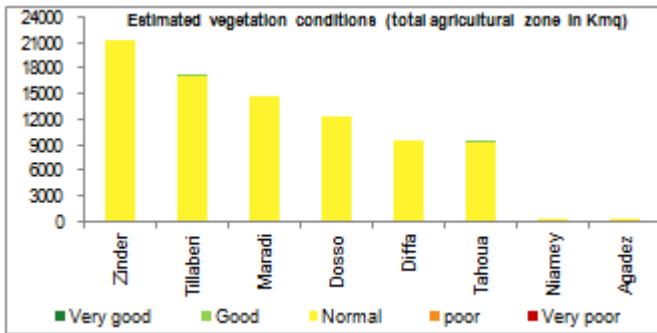
Source: Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System - 3 = 1000 or more people killed or 800000 or more people displaced. 2 = 100 or more people killed or 80000 or more displaced.



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Vegetation Condition

At the beginning of the rainy season, normal vegetation conditions are observed throughout the country. The general indicator of vegetation condition provided below is the relative difference between the NDVI for April 2010 and the average of the last 10 years, calculated on the agricultural zones derived from the GLOBCOVER land cover database (2005).



Source: JRC MARS & FoodSec

Food Security Situation

The government's National Rapid Household Survey indicated that 7.8 million people are at risk of food insecurity. In the short term GIEWS reports exceptional shortfall in food production; FEWSNET estimates that the most affected regions are Tahoua, Diffa, Zinder. WFP and IFPRI describe the situation in the long term as moderately high and alarming hunger.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT

			FAO/GIEWS CPFS 2010
Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production supplies	Widespread lack of access	Severe localized food insecurity	

Total precipitation in 2009 was significantly below normal and poorly distributed, resulting in crop and pasture production well below national needs for people and livestock. The results of a rapid food vulnerability ...[more](#) [FEWSNET](#)

SCALE OF HUNGER

					WFP/2009 Hunger Map
Very high hunger (>= 35% undernour.)	Moderately high hunger (20-34% undernour.)	Moderately low hunger (10-19% undernour.)	Very low hunger (5-9% undernour.)	Extremely low hunger (<5% undernour.)	

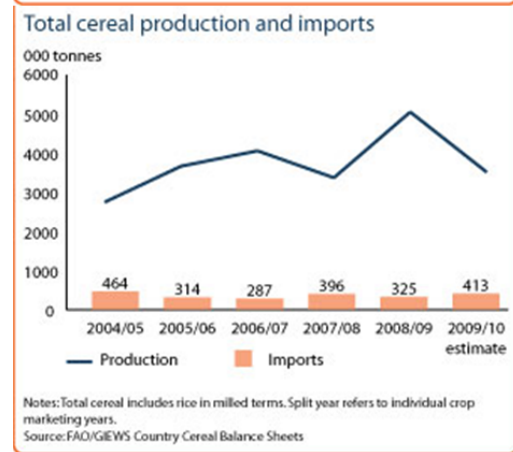
					IFPRI/2009 GHI
Extremely alarming	Alarming	Serious	Moderate	Low	

Food Balance Sheet

Due to a prolonged dry spell in several areas during the growing season, total cereal production in 2009 was estimated at 3.5 million tonnes, which is 30% lower than the previous year's output of 5 million tonnes. Import requirements for 2009/2010 marketing year are expected to be 413,000 tonnes.

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Millet	2850	3701	2678	-28
Sorghum	830	1214	739	-39
Rice (paddy)	73	78	91	17
Others	25	56	6	-89
Total	3778	5048	3514	-30

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Government Policies

The gov't Niger Rice Company (RINI) has bought rice to address the demand of the poor and to reinforce the Strategic Food Reserve (RAS) at the same time. The gov't has launched the sale at reduced price of nearly 60,000 tons of cereals in 4,400 villages. It has initiated seeds supply and distribution of livestock inputs in support of production. In addition, it has appealed for urgent international aid to assist population hit by the food crisis; WFP is providing food aid to 2.3 million people.

Consumer and market oriented measures	Purchase of rice; built up stocks; prices support.
Producer oriented measures	Support to input for crop/animal production.
Trade policy measures	n.a.
Safety net (increased or introduced)	Relief assistance (WFP/Govt).

Different sources

Current events to watch (Click to see the full report)

No News Found

For more information, contact: Information-for-action@fao.org
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