

Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

Niger

October 2009

Key Messages

- The food security situation remains difficult due to persisting high food prices and production deficits which have resulted from both insufficient rainfall and floods that damaged crops in different regions.
- The armed conflict in Niger's north, which lasted two years, is moving towards a peace process.
- FEWSNET describes the food security situation in the short term as stable, however WFP and IFPRI agree that the scale of hunger will be high in the long term.
- The government has subsidised sorghum and cereals to assist consumers and supported producers with inputs to crop and animal production.

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%

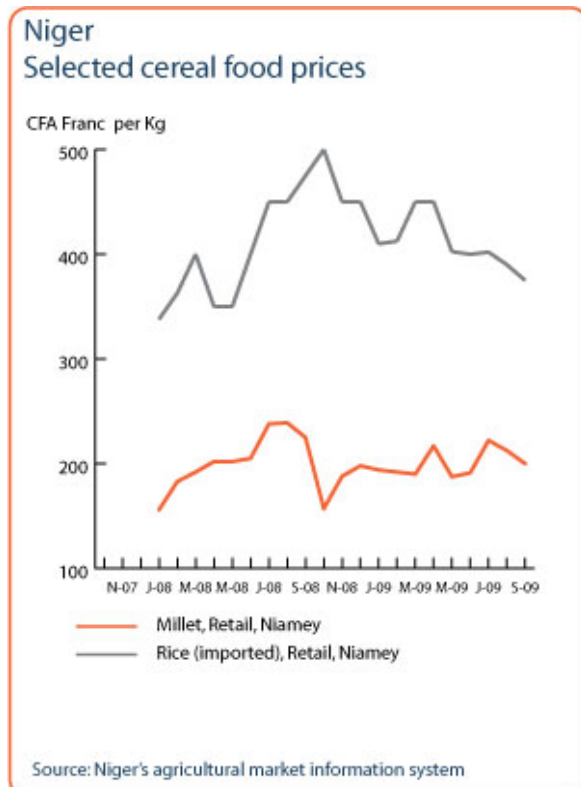
Prices

Cereals: Food access remains difficult for a substantial section of the population because of persistent high food prices. Following the lower prices recorded in the harvest period, millet prices began rising in December 2008 and in July 2009 and reached close to the August-October 2008 peak which was 43% above July 2007. The situation was even worse for rice, whose price continued to rise, reaching 53% over two years in Niamey by July 2009. At this level, prices are likely to flare up again if the forthcoming harvests are poor.

Livestock: Terms of trade for livestock/grain on the pastoral market in Abalak began slipping during the first 3 weeks of October.

Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

The government and the rebels have agreed to end the conflict in the country. Two rebel factions have agreed to disarm while a third is willing to join the peace process but not yet ready to lay down its weapons. Libya has begun the repatriation process of hundreds of Nigerien Touareg rebels.



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

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

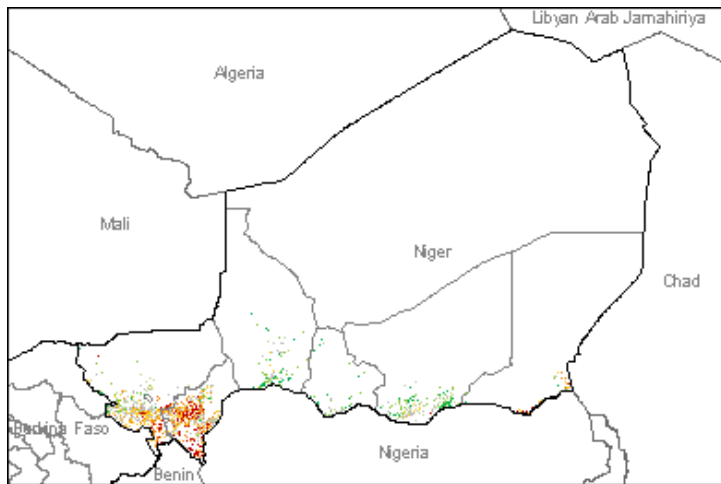
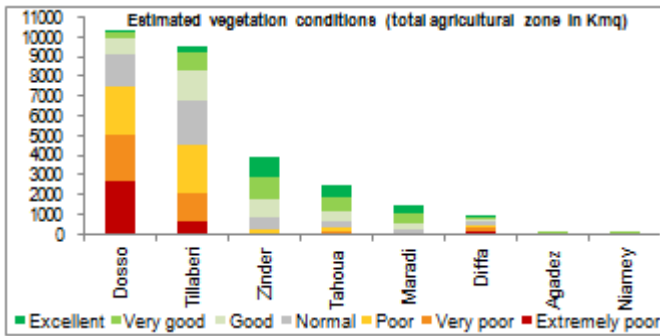
Source: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 22/10/2009.

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.

Vegetation Condition

Estimated vegetation condition in October 2009 with respect to the average of the last 10 years. The vegetation condition is calculated on the agricultural zone defined according to the GLOBCOVER land cover database. The charts report the areas of each vegetation condition class by province and have to be cautiously interpreted, in particular if in the dry season.



Source: JRC MARS – FoodSec

Food Security Situation

Irregular and below-average rains have sparked food insecurity concerns. According to FEWSNET the food security conditions are relatively stable in the short term despite the poor output of this year's agropastoral season. WFP describes the problem of hunger in the long term as moderately high and IFPRI warns for an alarming situation.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESMENT

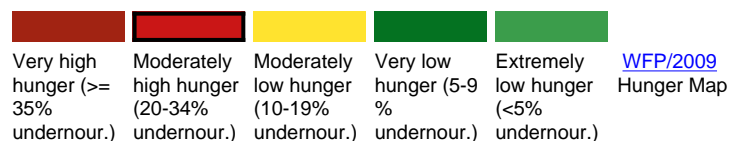
Niger is not part of the countries in crisis requiring external assistance

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Following multiple dry spells and early cessation of rains during the most vulnerable stages of crop development, the results of the 2009/10 agricultural and agropastoral season are down compared to a normal year ...[more](#)

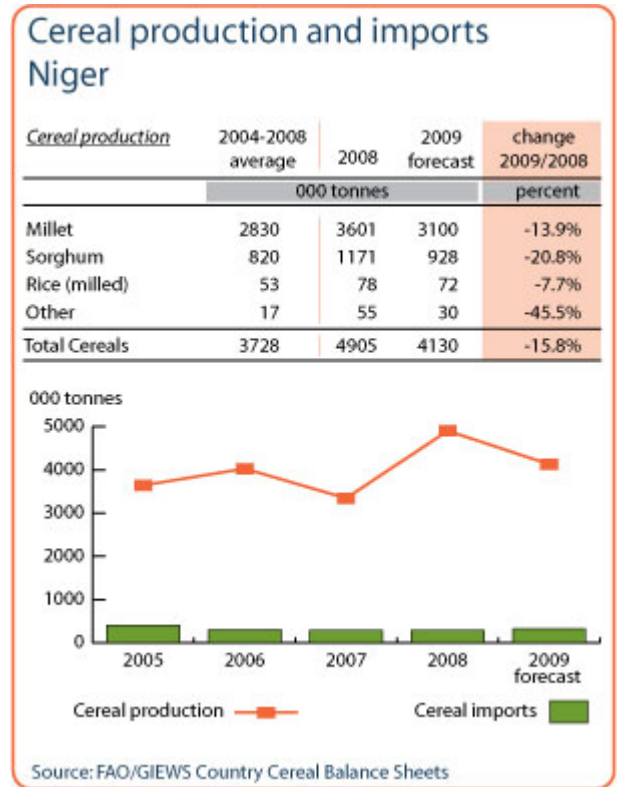
[FEWSNET](#)

SCALE OF HUNGER



Food Balance Sheet

As a consequence of the irregular start-up of the rainy season and due to violent storms and floods in some places, the 2009 total cereal production is estimated to be 15% below last year's production. In spite of this, anticipated commercial imports for 2008/09 are 280,000 tonnes, registering a decline from the previous year when they amounted at 397,000 tonnes.



Source: [GIEWS Country Briefs](#)

Governance Policies

The Niger government undertook some interventions such as selling sorghum and cereals at below-market prices in the west of Niger in Tillabéri and Tera to benefit some buyers during the rainy season. The government also supported producers with input for crop and animal production and irrigation schemes.

Consumer and market oriented measures	Storage facilities
Producer oriented measures	Support to inputs for crop/animal production; Irrigation
Trade policy measures	Reduced tariffs on imports
Safety net (increased or introduced)	Input distribution

Market and trade policy measures adopted (as of 1 December 2008)

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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