ANALYSIS OF FOOD AND NUTRITION RESILIENCE CHALLENGES IN NIGER



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List of acronyms

ACF Action Contre la Faim
AES Alliance of Sahel States
AFD French Development Agency
AGRHYMET AGRHYMET Regional Center

ARAA Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food

BID Islamic Development Bank

CABDEE African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child **CADHP** African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

CCA Food Crisis Unit

CDE International Convention on the Rights of the Child ECOWAS Economic Community of West African States

CEDEF Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

CFS Social Safety Net Unit

ICRC International Committee of the Red Cross

CIDPH International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CILSS Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel

CMS Supreme Military Council
CNCR National Rural Code Committee

CNED United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
CNEDD National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development

CNSP National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland

UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade, Environment and Development

COOPI Cooperazione Internazionale
COP Conference Of the Parties

COPRO Société de commerce et de production du Niger

CR/PGCA Regional Committee for Food Crisis Prevention and Management
CSR/PGCA Sub-Regional Committee for Food Crisis Prevention and Management

DNPGCA National Food Crisis Prevention and Management System

DPPD Multi-Year Expenditure Planning Document **DUDH** Universal Declaration of Human Rights

EGCR Etats Généraux du Code Rural
ENABEL Belgian Development Agency
ENBC National Consumer Budget Survey
HEKS Harvest Forecasting and Estimation Survey

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FCD Donor Pooled Funds

FIDA International Fund for Agricultural Development

FRAA Regional Agriculture and Food Fund

GIZ German Society for International Cooperation

GTI Interdisciplinary Technical Group

HCR Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees

HEA Household Economica Analysis - Analyse de l'Economie des Ménages

I3N Nigeriens feed Nigeriens" initiative
ISANP Food, Nutrition and Pastoral Insecurity
JORN Official Journal of the Republic of Niger
MAE Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

MAH/GC Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management

MSF Doctors Without Borders

MSP/DN Ministry of Public Health / Nutrition Department

OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

ODD Sustainable Development Goals
MDG Millennium Development Goals
NGO Non-Governmental Organization
OPVN Office des Produits Vivriers du Niger

PAM/WFP World Food Program





PAN-LCD/GRN National Action Program to Combat Desertification/Natural Resource Management

NOT Structural Adjustment Program
PCSA Comprehensive Food Security Program
PDES Economic and Social Development Plan

PDPDR Guiding Principles for Rural Development Policy

PFRN Niger's Rural Land Policy
ERP Large-Scale Irrigation Program

PGRC/DU Disaster Risk Management and Urban Development Project

GDP Gross Domestic Product

PIDESC International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
PNEDD National Environment Plan for Sustainable Development

PNPS National Social Protection Policy
PNSN National Nutritional Safety Policy
UNDP United Nations Development Programme
POCR Fundamental principles of the Rural Code

PREGEC Prevention and Management of Food Crises in the Sahel and West Africa

PTF Technical and Financial Partners

RECA National Network of Chambers of Agriculture

RPCA Food Crisis Prevention Network
RRSA Regional Food Safety Reserve
SAN Food and Nutrition Security

SAN/DAD Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agricultural Development

SANAD Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture

CC/SAP Early Warning System Coordination Unit

SDDCI Strategy for Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth

SDDEL Sustainable Livestock Development Strategy
SDR National Rural Development Strategy

SDRP Accelerated Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy
SDS Strategy for Development and Security in the Sahel-Saharan zones

AIDS Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
SIMA Agricultural Market Information System
SIMB Livestock Market Information System

SNA National Food Strategy

SNDDA National Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Aquaculture

SNR National Reserve Stock

SOSA Operational Food Safety Strategy

SP Permanent Secretariat

SPR Regional Permanent Secretariat SRP Poverty Reduction Strategy

UEMOA West African Economic and Monetary Union

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

USAID US Agency for International Development

HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus

EU European Union

ZLECAF African Continental Free Trade Area



Introduction

Background and rationale

With a gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of around US\$340 and a poverty rate estimated at 59.5% according to the Enquête Nationale Budget Consommation (ENBC), Niger is ranked among the world's poorest countries¹. The structure of Niger's economy remains dominated by agriculture, which contributes around 40% of gross domestic product and employs 85% of the working population. Despite its importance, the agricultural sector is struggling to modernize and remains largely dependent on climatic hazards. What's more, the country's strong population growth (3.3% per year) is increasing land pressure, resulting in the ongoing fragmentation of cultivated areas, ever-decreasing yields and expansion onto marginal land unsuitable for rain-fed farming. This heavy dependence on rain-fed agriculture predisposes the country to great food vulnerability, and years of low agricultural production are generally punished by food crises, the scale and depth of which vary according to the level of deficit and the prevailing economic factors. Insufficient and poorly distributed rainfall in both space and time leads to recurrent cereal and fodder deficits.

Thus, years of pronounced deficit generally lead to a food, pastoral and nutritional crisis, due to very precarious living conditions and a large proportion of the population in a situation of chronic vulnerability. To improve the performance of agrosylvo-pastoral and fisheries production systems and reduce the impact of episodes of drought or other hazards on Niger's populations and their livelihoods, since 2012 Niger has been implementing a Strategy for Food Security and Sustainable Agricultural Development, called the "3N Initiative: Nigeriens Nourrissent les Nigériens". The 3N Initiative has thus become a central component of Niger's economic and social development plan, and a major contributor to poverty reduction efforts. The 3N Initiative strategy will serve as a framework for the implementation of Niger's resilience priorities, which will enable us to proactively tackle the structural causes of vulnerability to food and nutritional insecurity, and thus strengthen the resilience of populations in the face of crises and disasters. An analysis of vulnerability shows that Niger's populations are confronted with recurrent, and in some cases chronic, food and nutritional insecurity. This situation is the result of various complex and interdependent factors. Faced with the threat of hunger, the most vulnerable groups adopt survival strategies that erode their livelihoods, leading them into a vicious circle of vulnerability and poverty. Chronic malnutrition, which affects almost half of all children under the age of 5, is both the result of this situation and a handicap that jeopardizes the country's ability to meet the structural challenges of hunger and malnutrition. With regard to cyclical causes, the results of a recent study on "Risk assessment of the agricultural sector in Niger" provide a good summary of the main risks facing the rural sector, which pose a threat to the food and nutritional security of the vast majority of the population. These are mainly (i) climatic risks, including droughts, floods, extreme temperatures and windstorms; (ii) non-climatic risks, including locust invasions, livestock diseases and parasites, crop pests and diseases, bush fires and roaming animals; (iii) fluctuating food prices (loss of income from products on sale, difficulties in accessing products for purchase); (iv) conflicts whose impact affects food and nutritional security, in particular conflicts linked to the management of natural resources and those linked to insecurity, with their corollary of massive influxes of refugees and internally displaced people. With regard to structural causes, we can cite in particular (i) under-performing production systems due to limited investment in the agricultural sector, in particular in the area of rational intensification adapted to climate change; (ii) a high population growth rate, which increases pressure on access to resources, but also to basic social services (health, education, etc.); (iii) the consequences of the global economic downturn,

² July 2016 Final Report - Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARM)



¹ Trends, profile and determinants of poverty in Niger: 2005-2008 - Institut National de la Statistique (page 19)



which has led to an increase in the number of people living in poverty.); (iii) the consequences of climate change and variability; (iv) land insecurity and unequal access to other factors of production; and (v) the lack of governance in the rural and food security sectors. In urban areas, vulnerability to food and nutritional insecurity is essentially due to the lack of stable and sufficient sources of income to meet all essential needs. In order to significantly and sustainably reduce vulnerability to food insecurity, we need to ensure that the geographic areas most at risk, and the population groups most at risk, are targeted as a matter of priority. Only then will our efforts have a decisive impact and help to avoid or limit devastating recurrent food and nutrition crises. In Niger, over a period of 3 to 5 years, no area of the country is spared from food insecurity, either because of a shock or a chronically fragile situation. Various spatio-temporal analysis methods, such as the vulnerability score of the Early Warning System (SAP)³, can be used to highlight the level of vulnerability of different departments, and even communes, by highlighting those whose scores are very frequently poor, but also those which have the greatest difficulty in returning to an acceptable level after a crisis episode. The results of these analyses, together with the lessons learned from the "Household Economy Analysis" framework⁴, now make it possible to identify the most fragile areas and the categories of households most exposed to food and nutritional insecurity.

The nutritional situation of children under 5 also remains precarious, affecting all regions of the country. According to the results of the joint UNICEF/WFP/Government survey conducted in June 2019, the national acute malnutrition rate stands at 12.3%. Less than half the population (41%) has access to basic health services, and one child in five dies before reaching the age of five. Even in a normal year, 40% of children under 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition.

On the other hand, in recent years, natural disasters have been compounded by the forced displacement of populations as a result of recurrent terrorist threats. These phenomena disrupt economic, political, environmental and social systems, threaten food and human security, and hamper progress in the country's development process. They also generate serious humanitarian crises for the populations, who are often faced with multiple and multifaceted humanitarian needs (MAH/GC, 2022).

Methodology

This analytical study was carried out using interview guides (see appendix) previously drawn up on the determinants of Niger's food and nutrition resilience strategy. The institutions targeted for interview were mainly the ministries involved in the implementation of the national food and nutrition security strategy and their branches, international organizations, socio-professional organizations and NGOs with components relating to rural development and/or natural disaster management. During the interviews, extensive documentation was collected and analyzed.

Objective

To carry out a legal-institutional analysis of the challenges of food and nutritional resilience in Niger.

Expected result

A country report on the legal-institutional analysis of the challenges of food and nutritional resilience in Niger is produced.

⁴ An analytical framework that provides a better understanding of people's livelihoods and strengthens the technical capacity of stakeholders to predict short- and medium-term variations in people's access to food. (https://hea-sahel.org).



³ An integrated system of hazard monitoring, forecasting and prediction, disaster risk assessment, communication and preparedness activity systems and processes that enables individuals, communities, governments and other stakeholders to take timely action to reduce disaster risk before hazardous events occur. (https://inee.org/fr/glossaire-ESU/systeme-dalerte-precoce).





Legal instruments and public policies relating to food and nutritional resilience

Public policies most often represent the implementation of commitments made through international and regional agreements. For this reason, it is useful first to present the various legal instruments relating to food and nutritional resilience, before examining the public policies developed to implement them.

Legal instruments

The study of these instruments leads us to present, on the one hand, international and regional legal instruments and, on the other, national legal instruments.

International and regional legal instruments

In the preamble to the suspended Constitution⁵ of November 25 2010, Niger proclaimed its commitment to human rights as defined by international and regional legal instruments, including the right to food and food security. The change of regime on July 26, 2023 has not shaken this commitment, which remains, more than ever, a preoccupation of the new authorities. Indeed, Article 1 of Ordinance no. 2023-02 of July 28, 2023, on the organization of public powers during the transition, states that the Conseil National pour la Sauvegarde de la Patrie (CNSP), the supreme body for the conception and orientation of national policy during the transition: "Conscious of its responsibility to the people of Niger", guarantees "the rights and freedoms of the human person and the citizen as defined by the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1981 African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights". Moreover, article 3 of the Ordinance states that "the State of Niger is and remains bound by the international treaties and agreements previously signed and duly ratified". From these provisions, it is clear that the transitional authorities are reiterating their commitment to respect international and regional legal instruments previously signed.

International legal instruments

The main source of human rights, the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is the first international text to enshrine the right to food and food security. Article 25 states that "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food⁶, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood⁷ in circumstances beyond his control. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special help and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, enjoy the same social protection". But beyond the UDHR, it is above all the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) which, through Article 11, gives clear content to the right to food and food security. Indeed, this article obliges States Parties to recognize and strive, individually or through

⁷ Idem.



⁵ This suspension follows the coup d'état of July 26, 2023, in which President Bazoum was overthrown by CNSP soldiers.

⁶ Emphasis added.



international cooperation, for the respect of the fundamental right of people to be free from hunger and to have an adequate standard of living-including food-for themselves and their families. According to paragraph 2 of this article, state action may include concrete programs aimed not only at "improving methods of production, conservation and distribution of foodstuffs through the full utilization of technical and scientific knowledge, through the dissemination of principles of nutritional education and through the development or reform of agrarian systems, in such a way as to optimize the development and utilization of natural resources", but also to "ensure an equitable distribution of the world's food resources in relation to needs, taking into account the problems of both food-importing and food-exporting countries". These provisions must be complemented by art. 7 of the Covenant, which requires States parties to recognize the right of their citizens to just and favorable conditions of work which will secure to them and their families a decent living⁸. Finally, it should be noted that the scope of all these commitments is reinforced by art. 2, para. 2, which prohibits all forms of discrimination in the enjoyment of the rights provided for in the Covenant.

The right to food and food security also features prominently in international conventions specifically dedicated to women, children and people with disabilities.

For example, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)⁹, taking into account women's difficult access to food in situations of poverty¹⁰, recommends that they be provided with adequate nutrition during pregnancy and breastfeeding¹¹ and that women living in rural areas be given equal treatment with men in agrarian reforms and rural development projects¹², as well as suitable living conditions integrating several aspects including water supply¹³. Although Niger has entered a number of reservations to CEDAW, the fact remains that these provisions relating to women's right to food fall outside the scope of these reservations, and constitute strong commitments to which the country intends to adhere.

As far as children are concerned, it is precisely articles 24 and 27 of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)¹⁴ which lay down rules relating to the right to food. Under article 23, States parties must take measures to combat childhood illness and malnutrition. The measures envisaged by the Convention include the provision of nutritious food and drinking water. Article 27 prescribes the duty to provide the child with an adequate standard of living for his or her physical, mental, spiritual and social development. Among other measures designed to achieve this standard of living, the Convention mentions material assistance and support programs for *food*, clothing and housing¹⁵ as well as the *recovery of maintenance payments from* parents or other persons having financial responsibility for the child¹⁶. These rights are extended, without discrimination, to disabled children under article 23 of the Convention.

¹⁶ Art. 27, para. 4 of the CRC.



⁸ It's obvious that a decent existence necessarily includes access to sufficient healthy food to escape hunger.

⁹ Niger ratified CEDAW on October 8, 1999.

¹⁰ This situation was formulated as a concern in the preamble to the CEDAW.

¹¹ Art. 12, para. 2 CEDAW.

¹² Art. 14, para. 2 (g) CEDAW.

¹³ Art. 14, para. 2 (h) CEDAW.

¹⁴ The CRC was signed by Niger on January 26, 1990 and ratified on September 30 of the same year.

¹⁵ Art. 27, para. 3 of the CRC.



Finally, with regard to disabled people, the right to food and food security is enshrined in Article 28 of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ICRPD)¹⁷, which requires States Parties to provide disabled people with an adequate standard of living, including adequate *food*, clothing and housing.

Niger's international commitments to food and nutritional resilience are also reflected in the various conventions governing the status of people on the move, notably refugees. These include the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, which was adopted on July 28, 1951 and came into force on April 22, 1954. Niger acceded to this convention on August 25, 1961. Article 20 of the Convention grants refugees the *right to rationing. Under the* terms of this right, member states must observe equal treatment between their nationals and refugees living on their territories.

In addition to these texts, Niger has signed up to several other regional agreements that directly or indirectly contribute to the realization of the right to food and food security.

Regional legal instruments

At the regional level in Africa, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)¹⁸ is naturally the reference text for the protection and promotion of human rights, in which we are inclined to look for the main commitments of African states in this field. However, this text does not expressly provide for the right to food. However, according to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights¹⁹, this right is implicit in the provisions of the Charter through certain expressions such as: the right to dignity, the right to life, the right to health, the right to economic, social and cultural development, etc. Moreover, the Commission considers that the right to food is a fundamental human right. Moreover, the Commission considers that the right to food is essential to the enjoyment and realization of these rights²⁰.

We are pleased to note, however, that the right to food is formally enshrined in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC)²¹. Indeed, taking into account the fact that the situation of many African children is critical due to several factors, including *hunger*²², the charter prescribes, in art. 14, al. 2, the Charter prescribes the duty to *provide* children with "adequate food and clean drinking water"²³, to "combat malnutrition as part of primary health care..."²⁴ and to "ensure that all sectors of society, in particular parents, community leaders and community workers, are informed and encouraged to use nutritional knowledge in child health and nutrition: the benefits of breastfeeding, hygiene and environmental sanitation, and the prevention of domestic and other accidents"²⁵. Still in the same perspective, and with regard to vulnerable people, internally displaced persons also benefit from a right to food guaranteed by the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, which was adopted on October 23, 2009 and came into force on December 6, 2012.

²⁵ Art. 14, para. 2, h.



¹⁷ The convention was signed in New York on December 13, 2006 and came into force on May 3, 2008. It was ratified by Niger on June 24, 2008

¹⁸ The Charter was adopted in Nairobi (Kenya) in 1981. It came into force on October 21, 1986.

¹⁹ The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights is the body set up within the Organization of African Unity to promote and protect human and peoples' rights in Africa.

²⁰ Opinion given by the Commission in Peuple OGONI v/. Government of Nigeria, October 13-27, 2001, §64 and 65.

²¹ The CADBEE was adopted in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) on July 11, 1990. It came into force on November 29, 1999, and was ratified by Niger on December 11, 1996.

²² See paragraph 3 of the preamble to the Charter.

²³ Art. 14, para. 2, c.

²⁴ Art. 14, para. 2, d.



Ratified by Niger on May 10, 2012, the convention stipulates that States Parties undertake to provide displaced persons, to the greatest extent possible and as quickly as possible, with adequate humanitarian assistance, including food, water, shelter, medical care and other health services (...).

At sub-regional level, the Charter for the Prevention and Management of Food Crises in the Sahel and West Africa is the main source of Niger's commitments in terms of the right to food and food security. This charter, which revises the food aid charter adopted in 1990 by the Heads of State of the member countries of the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)²⁶ and the donor member countries of the Club du Sahel, was adopted on November 17, 2011 in Conakry and approved in February 2012 by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It is based on three major strategies: in-depth analysis and sharing of information on food crises, concerted action to ensure consistency and effectiveness, and the establishment of strategic frameworks dedicated to the prevention and management of food and nutrition crises. Other commitments made by Niger include the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDGs 26, 67, 88, 109, 1210, 1311 and 1512, as well as others:

- → Commitments under the ECOWAS Regional Agricultural Investment Plan ;
- → Commitments within the framework of the ECOWAS common market and ZLECAF;
- → The commitments of the Maputo and Malabo declarations13 on agricultural financing and rural poverty reduction;
- → Commitments to achieving the World Health Assembly's targets in the field of nutrition, and within the framework of the United Nations Decade of Action for Nutrition;
- → Istanbul World Humanitarian Summit 2016 commitments;
- → Commitments to the World Summit on Food Systems 2021;
- → Commitments to international conferences such as UNCTAD, COP, the Paris Agreement on the Environment and the fight against climate change.

Despite the withdrawal of the member countries of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES)²⁷ from ECOWAS announced in their joint communiqué of January 28, 2024, it is likely that Niger will remain morally attached to its commitments, given the national stakes involved in managing food and nutrition crises.

In addition to Niger's international and regional commitments to food and nutritional resilience, a number of legal texts have been passed at domestic level to give effect to these commitments.

Internal legal instruments

At a domestic level, it should be recalled that art. 12 of the suspended Constitution of November 25, 2010 clearly states the right of every Nigerien to "healthy and sufficient food" and "drinking water". In fine, it also specified that a law should be enacted to specify the conditions for the enjoyment and exercise of this right. Article 100 also provided for a rural code and a water and food safety code, for matters whose fundamental principles were to be determined by the legislator. Added to this is article 146, which lays down an obligation to "promote food sovereignty, sustainable development, access for all to social services and improvement of the quality of life".

a new ecological balance". ²⁷ The Alliance comprises Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. It was created on September 16, 2023.



²⁶ The Convention establishing the CILSS was first adopted in 1973 after the great drought, and revised in April 1994. It assigns a general mandate to the organization, namely "to invest in food security and in combating the effects of drought and desertification in order to achieve a new ecological balance".



Despite this constitutional consecration, there is as yet no law specifically devoted to the right to food or food safety. Nevertheless, domestic law contains a multitude of legislative and regulatory texts that contribute to the realization of these rights. Many of these texts concern the governance of natural resources, hence the choice of presenting them before the other texts.

Texts on the governance of natural resources

Beyond their eminent role in preventing and managing food crises, access to and management of natural resources also pose a real security challenge, due to the multiple conflicts they engender. For this reason, they have been a constant preoccupation of governments since independence. As early as 1960, the Niger authorities passed a law banning tithing and Achoura²⁸ to facilitate access to land. This law was later followed by Law no. 60-28 of May 25, 1968, setting out the conditions for the development and management of hydro-agricultural developments carried out by the public authorities, and Law no. 62-07 of March 12, 1962, abolishing privileges acquired on chiefdom lands²⁹. The aim of the latter was to confer ownership of the land attached to the chief's functions on the actual users, and to facilitate the allocation of unused land to peasants who were willing to work it and who applied for it. But the real reform of rural land law came in 1993 with Ordinance no. 93-015 of March 2, 1993, setting out the fundamental principles of the Rural Code (POCR)30. This ordinance created the conditions for general access to land for all citizens. Its approach is based on four fundamental axes, which have been supplemented over time with the adoption of several sector-specific texts. These are: securing land tenure for rural actors, organizing the rural population, promoting sustainable management of natural resources and land use planning. The POCR are implemented by a National Committee for the Rural Code (CNCR), headed by a Permanent Secretary (SP). Today, more than thirty years after the adoption of the 1993 ordinance, the policy put in place through the POCR has produced tangible results in terms of governance and the management of conflicts linked to natural resources. However, it still has a number of shortcomings, including inconsistency between the various texts, inadequacy in relation to certain realities, the lethargy of certain bodies set up to implement the policy, a lack of communication and information-sharing between stakeholders, funding mechanisms that are often ill-adapted, the absence of appropriate planning of activities, etc. Faced with this situation, it became necessary to have a reliable diagnosis of the implementation of this legislation; this led to the organization of the Etats Généraux du Code Rural (EGCR)³¹ whose conclusions led to the establishment of a Politique du Foncier Rural du Niger (PFRN) in September 2021³².

Successes in rural land management are to be shared between the fundamental guiding principles of the rural code and the various sectoral texts that complement them:

- → Law No. 98-07 of April 29, 1998 establishing the hunting and wildlife protection regime;
- → Law No. 98-042 of December 07, 1998 on the fishing industry;
- → Law no. 2004-040 of June 08, 2004 on the forestry regime in Niger;
- → Act no. 2004-048 of June 30, 2004 on the framework law for livestock farming;
- → Ordinance no. 2010-09 of April 1, 2010 on the Water Code;
- → Order no. 2010-029 of May 20, 2010 on pastoralism;
- → Ordinance no. 2015-35 of May 26, 2015 on plant protection;

³² The PFRN was adopted in September 2021 through decree n°2021-747/PRN/MAG of September 9, 2021.



 $^{^{28}}$ The law in question is no. 60-29 of May 25, prohibiting tithing and Ashura (JORN July $1^{\rm er}$ 1960).

²⁹ See JORN of March 15, 1962.

³⁰ JORN, n°7 of 1er April 1993.

³¹ The Etats Généraux du Code Rural took place in Niamey from February 16 to 18, 2018.



- → Law No. 2019-47 of October 24, 2019 on the repression of offenses relating to international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora;
- → Decree No. 97-006/PRN/MAG/E of January 10, 1997, regulating the development of rural natural resources;
- → Decree no. 97-007/PRN/MAG/E of January 10, 1997 establishing the status of pastoralists' home territories;
- → Decree no. 97-008/PRN/MAG/E of January 10, 1997 on the organization, powers and operation of institutions responsible for applying the guiding principles of the Rural Code;
- → Decree no. 97-367/PRN/MAG/E of October 02, 1997 determining the procedures for registering land rights in the rural file:
- → Decree no. 2013-28/PRN/MEL of January 23, 2013 determining the practical arrangements for the national inventory of pastoral areas and resources;
- \rightarrow Etc.

In addition to these texts on access to and management of natural resources, Niger's legal system contains several other domestic instruments that contribute to the realization of the right to food and food security.

Other internal texts

These are laws and regulations of various kinds, enacted to meet the country's needs or in line with international and regional commitments. For the most part, these texts concern the quality and control of products and foodstuffs, environmental protection, land-use planning, the organization of the agricultural sector and the rights of local communities in relation to the exploitation of natural resources. Of particular note in this respect are:

- → Order no. 92-030 of July 08, 1992 adopting the guiding principles of a rural development policy;
- → Ordinance no. 93-13 of March 2, 1993 instituting a public hygiene code;
- → Ordinance no. 96-067 of November 09, 1996 governing rural cooperatives;
- → Order no. 97-001 of January 10, 1997 institutionalizing environmental impact studies;
- → Law no. 98-056 of December 29, 1998 on environmental management;
- → Law no. 2000-15 of August 21, 2000 creating regional chambers of agriculture in Niger;
- → Law no. 2001-032 of December 31, 2001 on the orientation of regional planning policy;
- → Law no. 2002-028 of December 31, 2002 instituting standardization, certification and accreditation in Niger;
- → Law no. 2006-26 of August 09, 2006 amending order no. 93-16 of March 02, 1993 on mining law in Niger;
- → Law No. 2018-20 of April 27, 2018 on the regime of Interprofessional Agricultural Organizations in Niger;
- → Decree No. 99-433/PCRN/MSP of November 1, 1999 establishing the structure, composition and operation of the Health Police;
- → Order no. 160/MSP/DHP/ES of August 16, 2001 setting up sanitary border control posts;
- → Order no. 141/MSP/LCE/DGSP of September 27, 2004 setting drinking water potability standards;
- → Inter-ministerial Order No. 0116/MSP/MC/PSP/MMDI/DF of March 25, 2014 determining the conditions for the production, import and marketing of salt in Niger.

Public policies for food and nutritional resilience

The public policies implemented by Niger in relation to the right to food and food security are numerous, and have evolved over time according to constraints linked to both internal and external considerations. From independence until 1973, the food





issue was not a pressing concern³³, and the State's efforts were focused on cash crop production (notably groundnuts and cotton) and the intensification of livestock farming for export. It was the great drought that shook the Sahel between 1973 and 1974 that, from 1976 onwards, brought about a reversal of direction and placed this issue at the heart of the national agenda. Thus, from that date to the present day, all public policies have taken the issue of food security into account. But while some policies are specifically dedicated to this issue, others incorporate it as just another objective to be achieved.

Public policies dedicated to food security

Although 1973 marked the turning point in the recognition of food security as a national issue, it was not until the year 2000 that the issue really came into its own. That's why, when studying public policies dedicated specifically to this issue, it's useful to distinguish between policies before and after this date.

Public policies from 1973 to 2000

The 1973 drought occurred against a backdrop of steadily rising prices for staple imports (sugar, flour, milk, etc.)³⁴ and a drastic collapse in people's purchasing power. It highlighted the country's vulnerability and the need for a self-sufficient food policy to ensure the population's security. With this in mind, the new regime of the Supreme Military Council (SMC), which emerged from the coup d'état of April 15, 1974³⁵, made achieving food self-sufficiency by improving national production and rebuilding the livestock population a national strategy for achieving this goal. This policy benefited from substantial financial support from the State thanks to the uranium *boom*, and was above all marked by strict government control over grain and even livestock prices.

But despite the colossal investments made (construction of hydro-agricultural facilities, mobilization and subsidization of agricultural inputs, regular vaccination of livestock, multiplication of supervisory structures, constant awareness-raising and training of stakeholders, development of agricultural credit, etc.), self-sufficiency, let alone food balance, was not on the cards. On the contrary, cereal deficits followed³⁶ one after the other, leading the country to another drought in 1984, as well as an acute economic situation which resulted in a sharp drop in the State's financial capacities.

It was against this backdrop that structural adjustment programs (SAPs) made their appearance in Africa, followed by liberalization which led to the disengagement of governments from certain strategic sectors, including agriculture, to the benefit of the private sector. As a result, the policy of food self-sufficiency was abandoned in favor of a policy of importing foodstuffs (from northern countries) provided by a multitude of local companies created for the occasion. This new approach to food security is based on the availability of products on the market and people's ability to access them. It places local and international food traders at the heart of this security. Like the policies that preceded it, it will soon show its limitations. In fact, in addition to worsening food insecurity³⁷, there was a growing impoverishment of the population, prompting the public

³⁷ This worsening situation is due to the fact that foodstuffs are not accessible to people on the market.



 ³³ Indeed, during this period, the food situation was stable. From an agricultural point of view, until 1970, the years were in surplus, with the exception of 1968-1969, which was in deficit.
 ³⁴ The aim of the cash crop production policy was to provide farmers with income that would in turn enable them to purchase the basic

³⁴ The aim of the cash crop production policy was to provide farmers with income that would in turn enable them to purchase the basic necessities they lacked. It was with this in mind that the Société de Commerce et de Production du Niger (COPRO) was created.

³⁵ The famine caused by the 1973 drought is considered to be one of the reasons behind the fall of the Diori Hamani regime in 1974. Immediately after its installation, the military regime created by the CMS distributed large quantities of food to the population, rapidly gaining the trust of the people.

³⁶ See on this subject, Youssoufou Hamadou Daouda "les politiques publiques agricoles au Niger face aux défis alimentaires et environnementaux", in Les Cahiers d'Outre-Mer, April-June 2015, pp.119 to 121;



authorities to intervene again towards the end of the 1990s to "refound" the food security policy. New policies were designed and implemented from 2000 onwards.

Public policies from 2000 to the present day

Given the extent of food insecurity towards the end of the 1990s, following the disengagement of the State from the supply process, and given the considerable weakening of the State's capacity to intervene, political action in favour of food security, from 2000 onwards, was to be carried out with the significant support of technical and financial partners and certain NGOs, particularly international ones: (WFP, FAO, HCR, ICRC, UNDP, MSF, UNICEF, USAID, AFD, IDB, ACF, IFAD, GIZ, CONCERN, RECA, ENABEL, COOPI, CILSS, Save The Children, Coopération danoise, Coopération Suisse, Coopération Luxembourgeoise, Ayuda en Accion, etc.).). To facilitate coordination of the actions of the various players in such a context, the National Food Crisis Prevention and Management System (DNPGCA) set up in the 1990s was reorganized³⁸.

From an operational point of view, until the change of regime in July 2023, control strategies will focus primarily on the following policies: the Operational Food Security Strategy (SOSA), the Comprehensive Food Security Program (PCSA), the National Food Strategy (SNA), the National Nutritional Security Policy (PNSN) and the Program for coordination and strategic steering of the food and nutritional security and sustainable agricultural development sector, known as the "3N Initiative: Nigeriens Nourrir les Nigériens".

- → SOSA addresses the issue of food security from both a prevention and a sustainable management perspective. As such, it provides for crisis warning mechanisms and a system for coordinating the actions of the various stakeholders to ensure consistency. It also provides for rapid support to populations in the event of a crisis, and strategies for mobilizing and preserving both agricultural and animal productive capital to eradicate their vulnerability over time.
- → The CASP is designed to take into account the degree of vulnerability of populations in different agricultural production zones. Thus, in areas of high production potential, populations are considered less vulnerable and benefit from fewer interventions than those in areas of low production potential, where the risk of crises is higher.
- → The SNA was adopted to implement the food strategy of CILSSS member countries. Its aim was to create the conditions for sustainable structural food security by 2015.
- → With regard to the PNSN, as stated in paragraph 3 of its preamble, its purpose is to guide "the formulation of nutrition programs and actions, as well as the legal provisions required to respect, protect and fulfill the right to nutritional security for all. It also defines the roles and responsibilities for nutrition sector management, coordination, implementation and monitoring by national institutions and technical and financial partners involved in nutrition in Niger. Finally, it establishes overall accountability for the process, as well as modalities for collaboration with civil society, technical and financial partners, and the private sector".
- → Finally, the 3N Initiative (I3N) is the flagship policy of the 7th Republic regime, designed to meet the challenge of eradicating hunger in Niger. In line with international and regional development programs, notably the Strategy for Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth (SDDCI), it aims to increase national agricultural production (crops,

³⁸ In this regard, see order no. 0183/PM of October 17, 2017.





livestock, forestry, wildlife and fisheries) and facilitate access to the food market. In addition to the food issue, it is also intended to respond to national concerns in terms of ecology, energy and industry.

With the new regime resulting from the coup d'état of July 26, 2023, an official policy has yet to be adopted. However, the issue of food security is already considered a national concern, if not an emergency, for this regime. It was with this in mind that the Programme de Grande Irrigation (PGI) was launched by the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock (MAE) on March 20, 2024, in a bid for sovereignty, with the ultimate aim of achieving food security through the rehabilitation and development of several thousand irrigation perimeters.

Alongside these policies specifically geared to food security, there are other policies that take account of this issue in a multidimensional framework.

Public policies that take the food issue into account in their priority objectives

All development policies adopted from the 2000s onwards that are not specifically dedicated to food security consider it a priority in their strategies. To account for this situation, we will distinguish between policies aimed at developing the rural sector alone and cross-cutting development policies.

Policies to develop the rural sector

In 1992, Niger adopted a framework policy for the development of the rural sector, with Ordinance No. 92-30 of July 08, 1992, laying down the Guiding Principles of a Rural Development Policy (PDPDR) for Niger. This policy is based on five major axes: integrated management of natural resources, organization of the rural world, food security, intensification and diversification of production and, finally, financing of the rural world.

The implementation of the PDPDRs led to the adoption of a National Rural Development Strategy (SDR)³⁹ whose overall objective was to "reduce the incidence of rural poverty from 66% to 52% by 2015, by creating the conditions for sustainable economic and social development guaranteeing food security and sustainable management of natural resources". The SDR is organized around three strategic axes:

- → promote rural access to economic opportunities to create the conditions for sustainable economic growth in rural areas;
- → prevent risks, improve food security and sustainably manage natural resources to secure people's living conditions;
- → build the capacity of public institutions and rural organizations to improve rural sector management.

In addition to these two instruments, mention should be made of the PFRN adopted on September 9, 2021 following the 2018 états généraux du foncier rural. In line with the SDDCI, the Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES) and the 3N Initiative, the PFRN's main objective, by 2035, is to "make rural land a powerful lever for the country's economic and social development through modernized and integrated land governance, that ensures sustainable

 $^{^{39}}$ Decree n°2003-310/PRN/MRA of November 14, 2003.





land management, equitable and non-conflictual access to land and renewable rural natural resources, and the securing of legitimate land rights in all their diversity, particularly those of vulnerable rural operators (women, young people, people with disabilities)". The PFRN is structured around four main orientations, broken down into fourteen axes. These are: (i) to reorganize the institutional and legal framework and improve its performance; (ii) to reinforce the effectiveness and standardize the securing of legitimate land rights for rural populations and operators; (iii) to improve the management of estates and shared resources; and (iv) to put in place efficient and effective mechanisms for regulating land markets and land dynamics that give rise to inequity or conflict.

Last but not least: the Stratégie de Développement Durable de l'Elevage (SDDEL, July 2013), the Stratégie Nationale de Développement Durable de l'Aquaculture (SNDDA, April 2019) and the Stratégie de Développement et de Sécurité dans les zones Sahélo-sahariennes (SDS Sahel Niger, December 20, 2019).

Cross-functional development policies

Food security is taken into account in the main sustainable development policy documents drawn up by the country between 2000 and the present day. These include the Accelerated Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (SDRP), the Niger 2035 SDDCI and the PDES.

The PRSP is a revision of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) adopted in 2002⁴⁰. Designed for the 2008-2012 period, this policy is based on the same conviction as the PRS, i.e. that poverty reduction requires strong, sustained growth that will create wealth and jobs among the poor, and specifically in rural areas. In so doing, it aims to "create the conditions for genuine grassroots development through the emergence of a diversified, competitive economy in an integrated sub-regional environment". Through a change in mindset, the SDRP aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- \rightarrow an economic growth rate of at least 7% per year;
- \rightarrow an individual poverty rate of 42%;
- → a malnutrition rate of 24%;
- \rightarrow a gross enrolment rate of 94%;
- → a 45% adult literacy rate, with gender parity;
- → an infant and child mortality rate of 108 per 1000;
- → a maternal mortality rate of 200 per 100,000 live births;
- → HIV-AIDS prevalence rate kept below 0.7%;
- \rightarrow access to electrical service increased to 3% in rural areas and 65% in urban areas;
- \rightarrow 35% use of insecticide-treated bednets for children and pregnant women;
- → a fertility rate of 6 children per woman;

⁴⁰ The PRS was designed for the period 2002-2015. It was based on the observation that poverty was widespread, particularly in rural areas. Its objective was to reduce poverty by 2015 through sustained growth and job and income creation, particularly among the poor. This policy was structured around four axes. The first of these was to achieve growth at an annual rate of 4% and control inflation at 3%, all against the backdrop of a macro-economic framework conducive to production. The second axis, which was the cornerstone of the strategy, focused on the development of productive sectors (notably agriculture and livestock breeding) through land reclamation and the use and management of surface water resources, as well as on job creation. Axis 3 is in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and should enable the redistribution of growth revenues to the poor by focusing on basic social sectors (education, health, water) and ensuring control over population policy. Finally, Axis 4 focuses on improving political, administrative, economic and local governance.





- → a level of protected land area at least equal to 8% of the national territory;
- \rightarrow at least 110% coverage of the country's national cereal requirements.

To achieve these objectives, seven (7) strategic axes have been defined, namely: i) the quest for strong, diversified, sustainable and job-creating growth; ii) equitable access to quality social services; iii) controlling population growth; iv) reducing inequalities and strengthening social protection for vulnerable groups; v) infrastructure development; vi) promoting quality governance and; vii) effective implementation of the poverty reduction strategy.

The SDDCI⁴¹ sets out Niger's vision for 2017. This vision is to make Niger "a united, democratic and modern country, peaceful, prosperous and proud of its cultural values, underpinned by sustainable, ethical, equitable and balanced development in a united and supportive Africa". It constitutes the reference document for the 2017-2021 and 2022-2026 ESDPs, which were issued after its adoption.

The PDES is a five-year development plan that constitutes the main frame of reference for the actions of the Government and its Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs) in terms of economic and social development. It is based on the orientations of the Programme de renaissance du régime de la 7^{ième} République, and is intended to mark a break with the past in the management of development and governance. It has been designed in three successive versions (2012 to 2015, 2017 to 2021 and 2022 to 2026).

The 2012-2015 version aimed to promote economic, social and cultural well-being. It was structured around five (5) strategic axes, namely: i) consolidating the credibility and effectiveness of public institutions; ii) creating the conditions for sustainable, balanced and inclusive development; iii) food security and sustainable agricultural development; iv) a competitive and diversified economy for accelerated and inclusive growth and; v) promoting social development.

As for the 2017-2021 version, it was the first instrument for operationalizing the SDDCI Niger 2035. Its fundamental objective was to "contribute to building a peaceful, well-governed country with an emerging, sustainable economy and a society founded on values of equity and sharing the fruits of progress". It was also structured around five (5) strategic axes: cultural renaissance, social development and democratic transition, accelerating economic growth, improving governance, peace and security, and sustainable environmental management.

As for the 2022-2026 version, it takes up the same objective as the previous one, but is broken down into just three axes focusing on the development of human capital, inclusion and solidarity; the consolidation of governance, peace and security; and, lastly, the structural transformation of the economy.

These policies are complemented by the National Environment Plan for Sustainable Development (PNEDD), a program drawn up under the aegis of the National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CNEDD) in April 2000, following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (CNED) held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Its aim is to "create conditions conducive to improving food security, solving the domestic energy crisis, improving health conditions and promoting the development of populations". The PNEDD takes a holistic approach to the various national policies that existed prior to its adoption, linking environmental issues to sustainable development. It is centered around six programs: i) the National Action Program to Combat Desertification/Natural Resource

⁴¹ The SDDCI was adopted on May 9, 2017.





Management (PAN-LCD/GRN); ii) the Water and Sustainable Development Program; iii) the Energy and Sustainable Development Program; iv) the Urban Environment and Living Environment Program; v) the Biodiversity Management Program; and vi) the Climate Change and Variability Program.

As we can see, the policies implemented by Niger in relation to the right to food and food security are many and varied. But, despite their sheer number, the right to food and food security remain a challenge. This is because a number of obstacles limit the impact of these policies.



Obstacles to the effectiveness of the right to food and food security

Obstacles to the effectiveness of the right to food are of many kinds. However, they can be apprehended according to whether they are inherent to the definition and implementation of public policies or whether they relate to exogenous causes.

The obstacles inherent in defining and implementing public policies

Public policies are most often characterized by their inadequacy to realities and inefficiency in coordinating their implementation. Above all, however, it is the absence of national laws on the right to food and food security that constitutes their primary weakness.

Lack of national legislation on the right to food and food safety

By enshrining the right to healthy and adequate food in Article 12, alongside the rights to life, health, physical and moral integrity, drinking water, education and instruction, the November 25, 2010 Constitution also provided for the intervention of a national law to determine the conditions for the enjoyment and exercise of these rights. In addition, article 100 of the said Constitution formally enshrines food security among the matters whose fundamental principles are to be determined by law. Despite these provisions, and in particular article 184 of the Constitution, which requires the adoption of organic laws and related implementing legislation within the first two years of the legislature, no law on the right to food or food security has yet been adopted. This is a shortcoming that undoubtedly contributes to the ineffectiveness of the right to food and food security.

This gap is compounded by the inadequacy and poor coordination of public policies.

Inadequate public policy coordination

The first thing that comes to mind when taking stock of public policies is their sheer number, which does not guarantee their coherence or the proper coordination of actions on the ground. Thus, when put to the test, these policies most often prove to be out of touch not only with local realities, but also with the national and international macro-economic context⁴². Generally oriented towards decentralized entities, they are poorly adapted to the needs of populations and to the planning schemes established by these entities. Moreover, as they are not often involved in their design, the local population has difficulty understanding them. It should also be pointed out that the multiplicity of policies is often coupled with a multiplicity of coordinating bodies, resulting in parallel and often contradictory outcomes.

In addition to these obstacles linked to public policies themselves, the ineffectiveness of the right to food can be attributed to causes exogenous to public policies.

Exogenous causes of public policy

The reasons for the ineffectiveness of the right to food and food security outside the scope of public policies are most often linked to cultural and climatic factors, and to the weakness of the State.

⁴² In this regard, see Hamadou Daouda Youssoufou, art. cited above, pp 121 et seq.





Cultural and climatic factors

Considerations linked to certain local traditions and cultures are quite often the source of several behaviors that hinder or slow down the implementation of the right to food. Such is the case, for example, with women's and young people's limited access to arable land, considered by many Niger societies to be a male monopoly. Moreover, even if it is gradually being abandoned, the collective nature of land ownership, which is still persistent, constitutes to some extent an obstacle to the effective realization of this right, in that it concentrates the powers of access to this resource in the hands of a minority.

These factors are compounded by the effects of severe climatic conditions. Niger is a Sahelian country characterized by an arid climate that covers more than 2/3 of the country. It regularly suffers from drought, crop pests and constant soil erosion. In recent years, this situation has been exacerbated by climate change, which causes both extreme heat and unpredictable flooding, wiping out the efforts of farmers and the state.

All these scourges are rife in a context of widespread state weakness.

The weakness of the State

Ranked among the world's poorest countries, and burdened by a considerable foreign debt and a galloping demography, Niger does not have sufficient and appropriate means to implement infrastructures and consequent policies capable of effectively meeting the population's food needs. As a result of this weakness, state structures are absent in some parts of the country, depriving the population of the guidance and support they need in this area. Meanwhile, the private sector, which is supposed to fill the gap left by the state, is struggling to develop. On the other hand, the archaic and limited nature of the economy, combined with the poverty of the predominantly rural population and the lack of control over the market elite, make access to the food market difficult. Against this backdrop, a system of corruption has developed, resulting in the monopolization of land and natural resources by the more affluent (politicians, large-scale traders, traditional chiefs, senior government officials, etc.). The whole situation is aggravated by the insecurity caused by terrorism, which absorbs the bulk of public resources, slows down the intervention of technical partners in vulnerable areas, monopolizes resources, particularly animal resources, and often prohibits farming activities⁴³.

⁴³ By way of illustration, one year terrorists forced villagers cultivating their fields in a locality of Téra to dig up their seedlings. Terrorists also routinely drive people from their lands, depriving them of the opportunity to farm.





The institutional framework for food and nutrition security

The institutional framework is understood here as the set of inclusive and participatory mechanisms and arrangements for deciding, managing and coordinating food and nutrition security issues in an effective and transparent way. It aims to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of investments in the resilience of Niger's populations through better coordination, integration and management of interventions. The ultimate aim is to improve the governance of food and nutritional security, and effectively address the needs of vulnerable households and communities. This will be achieved by: (i) building the capacities of state and non-state actors in resilience; (ii) improving national and local capacities for coordinating pro-resilience programs and initiatives; (iii) building the capacities of communes in these areas; (iv) popularizing and disseminating the "convergence commune" approach; (v) improving mechanisms for targeting the most vulnerable households; and (vi) better integration and articulation between development efforts and emergency responses to one-off crises and shocks.

Organization and operation of the national food and nutrition security system

Organization of the national system

The DNPGCA is justified by the factors of food, nutritional and pastoral insecurity in Niger. It is part of a specific institutional environment and faces various challenges and issues. Over the period 2021 - 2025, it will contribute to building greater resilience among households vulnerable to food, nutritional and pastoral insecurity, by carrying out complementary actions in i) anticipation, mitigation, emergency response and recovery to cope with the effects of crises, in order to save lives and safeguard household livelihoods on the one hand; and ii) actions to reduce the chronic vulnerability factors of the poorest households on the other. This combination of short-, medium- and long-term actions, coordinated within a structure with its own program, enhances the alignment of partners' interventions and contributes to the implementation of a Nexus Urgence Développement approach.

❖ <u>DNPGCA objective</u>

The overall objective of the strategy is to: "Contribute to improving the resilience and early recovery of vulnerable populations through the anticipation, mitigation and management of food, pastoral and nutritional insecurity affecting them".

Strategic framework

The DNPGCA contributes to and coordinates with national and regional sectoral policies. Its vision is to effectively prevent and manage food crises. Its overall objective is to improve the food and nutritional resilience of vulnerable populations.

Pillars and specific objectives

- Pillar 1: Coordination and Strategic Steering: Ensures the management of food, nutritional and pastoral insecurity.
- Pillar 2: Monitoring and warning mechanisms: Implement monitoring, watch and warning systems.
- Pillar 3: Mitigation and conjunctural management: Aims to reduce the impact of temporary food crises.
- Pillar 4: Reducing chronic vulnerability: Aims to reduce structural vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity.

❖ <u>DNPGCA missions</u>

The main mission of the National Food Crisis Prevention and Management System (DNPGCA) is the prevention, mitigation, management and early recovery from the impact of crises affecting the people of Niger.





Specifically, the Device's main missions are to:

- → Inform and communicate on the food, pastoral and nutritional situation, including social nets for food and nutritional security;
- → Develop strategies for prevention, risk reduction, mitigation and management of food, nutrition and pastoral crises;
- → Contribute to the mobilization and management of emergency food funds;
- → Coordinate and monitor the implementation of these strategies;
- → Ensure the coherence and effectiveness of short- and medium-term actions aimed at improving food and nutrition security, reducing chronic vulnerability and building resilience;
- → Implement short- and medium-term interventions to prevent, mitigate and manage food, nutrition and pastoral crises, and finally
- → Facilitate dialogue and advocacy.

Operational structures

Today, the scheme comprises a Permanent Secretariat, three technical units and a Technical Management Unit:

- → The Permanent Secretariat of the DNPGCA (SP/DNPGCA): This is responsible for coordination and synergy of action between the DNPGCA's operational technical structures and all the technical and financial partners involved in the scheme. It ensures the coherence of interventions between the various structures of the system, the internal audit of the resources made available to the system and organizes advocacy for the mobilization of resources. Equipped with a central database, it is responsible for analyzing the effects and impacts of the various interventions on vulnerable populations. Its communications department is responsible for disseminating thematic information and raising the profile of activities carried out in this field.
- → The Early Warning System Coordination Unit (CC/SAP): This unit is responsible for collecting, processing, analyzing and archiving all useful data in the food, pastoral, health, nutritional and socio-economic fields, with the aim of advising and alerting the authorities in good time when necessary. The CC/SAP also carries out complementary studies to accurately diagnose probable or actual crisis and disaster situations, and to provide early warning. It is also responsible for identifying vulnerable areas and populations, and monitoring developments in high-risk areas. To carry out its functions, the CC/SAP relies on various information systems under the responsibility of the technical ministries, in particular: the SIMA (Système d'Information sur les Marchés Agricoles), the SIMB (Système d'Information sur les Marchés de Bétail) and the EPER (Enquête Prévision et Estimation des Récoltes) of the agricultural statistics services, as well as on regional and sub-regional committees for the prevention and management of disasters and food crises.
- → Cellule Crises Alimentaires (CCA): This unit is responsible for coordinating the management of responses to food and pastoral crises. Its responsibilities include assessing food aid needs, preparing and implementing support plans for vulnerable populations, and coordinating the implementation of responses to food, pastoral and nutritional crises. The CCA is also responsible for planning, implementing and monitoring crisis mitigation, early recovery and disaster relief interventions using allocated resources.
- → The Social Safety Net Unit (CFS): Its mission is to develop, implement and manage social safety net systems in order to improve the living conditions of poor households, protect them from the impact of shocks and reduce their



- level of vulnerability. Its instruments are *cash transfers*, *cash for work*, the development of best practices and the revitalization of vulnerable groups and communities.
- → The technical management unit: The Disaster Management and Reduction and Urban Development Project (PGRC-DU). Funded by the World Bank, this project operates in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction and Urban Development.

Other operational structures

- → Office des Produits Vivriers du Niger (OPVN), responsible for maintaining the national reserve stock (SNR) and food aid logistics;
- → Technical Ministries through the Interdisciplinary Technical Groups (ITGs), which produce the information required for the analyses carried out by the CC/SAP;
- → The Regional and Sub-Regional Committees for the Prevention and Management of Disasters and Food Crises (CR/PGCCA and CSR/PGCCA), which coordinate and lead actions in the field of disaster and food crisis prevention and management, with the participation of stakeholders such as decentralized administrations and NGOs operating in the field. These committees are chaired respectively by the General Secretaries of the Governorates and the Prefects. They are also supported, at regional level, by the Regional Permanent Secretariats (SPR), a team of 3 people, who coordinate and lead the actions carried out in the field of disaster and food crisis prevention and management.

Also, in terms of preventing and managing food and nutrition crises and reducing vulnerability to ISANP, DNPGCA interacts directly with sub-regional institutions and bodies, and is part of sub-regional dynamics. These include

- → UEMOA and ECOWAS together lay the foundations for sub-regional strategies. The Agence Régionale pour l'Agriculture et l'Alimentation (ARAA) is the technical structure delegated to manage ECOWAP/SADCAP projects and programs, and is responsible for the regional food security storage strategy.
- → Comité Permanent Inter-États de Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel (CILSS)17: This was set up on September 12, 1973, with headquarters in Niamey, following the major droughts that hit the Sahel in the 1970s. Created in 1974, the AGRHYMET Regional Center is a CILSS institution, which contributes to the establishment of regional data (agrometeorological and hydrological monitoring, agricultural statistics and crop and market monitoring), and to the strengthening of information systems on SAN and vulnerability, and pilots the Harmonized Framework for SAN analysis at national and international level.
- → The Club du Sahel: Created in 1976, the Club du Sahel is an active forum for the Sahelian states of Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal, which are members of the CILSS (Comité Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel), civil society organizations grouped in regional networks representing the private sector, rural communities, women and municipal leaders, and the main bilateral and multilateral donors. The Club is managed by a Secretariat based at OECD headquarters in Paris.
- → PREGEC and the Réseau de Prévention des Crises Alimentaires (RPCA): Created in 1984, the RPCA is an international consultation and coordination network under the political leadership of ECOWAS and UEMOA, and co-led by the Executive Secretariat of the Club du Sahel (OECD). It brings together ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS, Sahelian and West African countries, bi- and multilateral cooperation agencies, humanitarian agencies and



- international NGOs, professional agricultural organizations, civil society and the private sector, and regional and international information systems.
- → The Charter for the Prevention and Management of Food Crises in the Sahel and West Africa (PREGEC). It was adopted in Conakry in 2011, and commits the 17 member countries of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS.
- → The regional food security storage strategy, adopted in 2012, deploys a West African storage system. It is in line with the ECOWAS vision, which combines and organizes complementarity between four lines of defense against food and nutritional insecurity: (i) local stocks managed by producers' and breeders' organizations; (ii) national stocks managed by the States; (iii) a regional stock; and (iv) recourse to international aid. The third line of defense, the Regional Food Security Reserve (RRSA) was created by decision of the Heads of State and Government in 2013, and is based on a physical stock and a financial reserve inserted into the ECOWAS Regional Agriculture and Food Fund (RAFF).



Financial governance for food and nutrition security

The Support Plan for Vulnerable Populations is the reference framework document used by the State of Niger and its partners to implement appropriate prevention and response actions in the fields of food security, nutrition and pastoralism. In implementing the Support Plan, the DNPGCA has access to various sources of funding, the volumes of which vary from year to year according to the severity of crises and the scale of needs. Until 2015, DNPGCA operations in response to cyclical food insecurity were mainly financed through the Common Donor Fund (CDF) and, for the running of its structures, through financial support from certain members who signed the framework agreement with Niger. For many years, it has benefited from technical assistance through the presence of international technical assistants or through the financing of specific interventions aimed at strengthening the operational and organizational capacities of the Device. Since 2016, certain partners, first and foremost the EU, which historically contributes 70 to 75% of the CDF, have opted for budgetary support for the SANAD sector to encourage Niger's commitment to making the DNPGCA sustainable, and to aligning with public finance reform and the program-budget approach. Indeed, since 2018, Niger has fully adopted public finance reform in the UEMOA space and the Budget-Programme approach as a budget programming tool, in accordance with Law n°2012-09, the Organic Law on Finance Laws and UEMOA Directive n°6/2009 to promote legibility and efficiency in budget management. This change in modality means that the DNPGCA must mobilize a large proportion of the funds required to carry out its operations from the Ministry of Finance and via the budget programming tools provided for this purpose, and no longer mainly from the CDF. The DNPGCA contributes directly to the preparation of the Primature's budget programming documents (DPPD). However, the DNPGCA faces a number of problems in mobilizing the funds needed to implement the activities of all its structures. At present, it constitutes an action within Program 3 of the "Document de Programmation Pluriannuelle des Dépenses 2019-2021 de la Primature" (DPPD), which makes its needs little visible and traceable, despite the stakes and financial volumes involved. Budgets allocated to the operation of DNPGCA structures have been significantly reduced in recent years. Another major constraint to which we have to adapt is the seasonal nature of DNPGCA's intervention requirements, which are not adapted to the State's budgetary calendar. For this reason, the DNPGCA needs to work on the National Budget's planning and mobilization tools, in order to draw up a plan that takes into account the State's budget cycle, needs and resource mobilization constraints, so as to transmit needs (even if they are only indicative and forecast based on an estimate) in order to secure budget entries in the Finance Act. To meet this challenge, it is envisaged to create a secure fund for the DNPGCA, supplied by the national budget as soon as resources are first allocated, to enable priority activities to be implemented. The Framework Agreement does not address the needs of the DNPGCA as a unified structure. Funds are primarily targeted at responses implemented by the CCA, and do not offer the flexibility to respond rapidly to the needs of other DNPGCA structures under the arbitration of its Permanent Secretary.

The overall estimated cost of implementing DNPGCA's food crisis prevention and management strategy for the period 2021-2025 is 140, 252 billion FCFA. The financial estimate is intended to give an idea of the cost of DNPGCA actions, operations and investments to be carried out each year by DNPGCA across the strategy's four operational programs. In calculating this budget, the experts drew on the exercise carried out as part of the three-year plan, which describes each activity in detail in its appendices, highlighting the cost elements involved. Funding for the selected actions will be raised from the French government and DNPGCA partners in a concerted effort.



The efforts of the Government, technical and financial partners and NGOs in managing food and nutrition crises in Niger

Challenges

A number of new challenges will have to be met in the area of food security and nutrition. These include

- → Meeting the food and nutritional needs of growing urban and rural populations with changing dietary preferences;
- → Guarantee a sustainable increase in agricultural production and productivity;
- → Increasing resilience to climate change;
- → Finding sustainable solutions in the face of growing competition for natural resources.

Lessons learned from past activities

The results obtained over several decades show that the incidence of hunger and malnutrition has indeed been reduced, but at a slower rate than population growth, so that the actual number of people suffering from chronic hunger and malnutrition has increased. This shows that all players need to focus more effectively on the most pressing challenges, which the National Strategic Framework is designed to facilitate. All stakeholders need to learn from experience and take it into account when designing more effective food security and nutrition strategies. These lessons are as follows:

- → Development programs must be country-owned and country-led;
- → Effective governance systems at country level, involving stakeholders at all levels and including effective, accountable and transparent institutions, structures and decision-making processes, are needed to guarantee peace and the rule of law, which are essential factors in ensuring a favorable business environment;
- → We need to guarantee women's participation as key players in agricultural activities, given their potential contribution to the production of food consumed in the country, and put an end to the discrimination they face in terms of access to production goods, extension services and financial services, which translates into lower productivity and greater poverty;
- → We need to prevent hunger and malnutrition from being passed on from generation to generation, in particular by promoting education and literacy among women and girls;
- → We need to reduce post-harvest losses and food waste, which are currently excessive, by investing in rural infrastructure, in particular to improve communications, transport, storage, energy efficiency and waste recycling along the value chain; and we need to reduce food waste on the part of consumers;
- → the quality, safety and diversity of the foods we eat are important, as is their caloric value;
- → Well-designed, targeted social protection programs and safety nets are needed to ensure that the poor and vulnerable have access to food at all times;
- → All relevant stakeholders, in particular small-scale food producers and local communities, must be closely involved in the development, planning and implementation of programs and projects, including research programs;
- → Increased and responsible private-sector investment in agriculture as an economic activity, and in particular the role of small-scale food producers as investors, is important and should be encouraged;





- → To reverse the downward trend in agricultural productivity while avoiding negative impacts that could compromise environmental sustainability, we need to ensure technology development and transfer; promote research and development activities and extension services in the public and private sectors;
- → Rational management of ecosystems and natural resources, as well as agro-ecological practices, have proved important in contributing to the sustainable development of agriculture, improving the incomes of agri-food producers and strengthening their resilience in the face of climate change;
- → Local knowledge is important for promoting food security, which is influenced by the ability to manage natural assets and biodiversity, as well as for adapting to the localized effects of climate change.

Food and nutrition crisis management in Niger

The Support Plan for Vulnerable Populations is the reference framework document used by the State of Niger and its partners to implement appropriate prevention and response actions in the fields of food security, nutrition and pastoralism.

It is the preferred tool for dialogue and advocacy to mobilize resources, and the one that specifies the technical standards associated with intervention methods to meet the needs of vulnerable populations.

Working relations and the quality of dialogue with the DNPGCA are appreciated by the various state actors, TFPs and nonstate actors. In particular, the bodies provided for in the Framework Agreement enable regular consultations between the DNPGCA and its main technical, operational and financial partners. One of the key features of the scheme is the level of involvement of TFPs. The Facility interacts with several ministries to carry out its activities in prevention, anticipation, mitigation, response and early recovery from the impact of food, pastoral and nutritional crises. The DNPGCA's technical partner ministries produce the information required for the analyses carried out by the CC/SAP, and act as relays for the operational implementation of the interventions planned by the System. These ministries, participating in the Interdisciplinary Working Group (IWG), collect and share data with the Facility in their specific areas of competence: the rainfall situation, the hydrological situation, the progress and results of the agricultural and pastoral season, the markets and prices of agricultural and livestock products, the health and nutritional situation, etc. The Technical Ministries provide their information as part of the periodic analysis exercises (Harmonized Framework, SAP technical meetings, even certain HEA analyses) coordinated by the CC/SAP, in which they participate. The DNPGCA remains responsible for planning, implementing and coordinating responses in the form of food assistance and livelihood support in the context of sudden-onset shocks (particularly when they lead to population movements), and provides more input to the structures responsible for overall coordination of emergency responses to these shocks, foremost among which is the MAH/GC. Although the Support Plan consolidates all food, nutrition and pastoral needs, the distribution and complementarity of mandates, roles and responsibilities between the DNPGCA and several sectoral Ministries (Agriculture, Livestock, Environment, Health, Education etc.) are not always clear, and the specific modalities of interventions in response to the needs of the most vulnerable households are not always adapted.

Adopted in 2005, the Framework Agreement is based on mechanisms that are no longer in phase with the institutional and organizational evolution of the DNPGCA. It does not take into account all DNPGCA structures, and does not allow for expansion to new partners. The Food Security *Cluster* is a mechanism in which the DNPGCA is virtually absent.

The DNPGCA strategy document and its 2021-2025 action plan take these findings into account by providing for each structure the measures needed to clarify and strengthen collaboration and complementarity with other partner ministries and institutions in the following areas of action:





- → providing data and information for early warning, situational and vulnerability analysis and response;
- → the complementary implementation of actions in the field as part of DNPGCA operations;
- → response coordination, particularly in the context of sudden-onset shocks (MAH/GC) and nutrition (MSP/DN).

This will involve a precise definition of action synergies (distribution of zones, targets, methods), letters of understanding with certain key ministries, and clarification of the ownership of certain coordination bodies (clusters, technical groups, etc.). Similarly, the need to evolve the partnership framework with TFPs is taken into account to adapt to the current challenges of the DNPGCA strategy.



The evolution of food crises over the last ten years and their impact on the food and nutrition situation

Food crises are increasingly complex, with a strong interweaving of cyclical and structural, agricultural and nutritional issues (Michiels et al., 2012). Whether they are described as traditional, less endogenous or trend-related, food crises are increasingly long-lasting and difficult to apprehend (Janin, 2015), as they differ in their causes, manifestations and intensity (Mourey, 2004). So-called "traditional" crises are linked to the availability of food resources (aggravated hunger, rural shortages). Often localized and predictable, these crises are relatively seasonal or cyclical in nature, and populations have often shaped their lifestyles around them. Less endogenous crises, on the other hand, are linked to rather imported cyclical shocks (sudden price rises or climatic or ecological accidents). They are marked by a loss of access to basic foodstuffs. Trend crises, on the other hand, are linked to an increase in the precariousness and vulnerability of livelihoods.



Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

An analysis of the political and institutional framework for food and nutrition security in Niger reveals the following strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities.

The forces

- → Availability of legislative and regulatory texts;
- → Availability of human capital in terms of numbers, quality and skills;
- → Availability of groundwater for irrigation;
- → Financial support from certain TFPs;
- → Population able to adopt resilience strategies;
- → Existence of local adaptation strategies.

Weaknesses

- → Cumbersome legislative and regulatory framework;
- → Inadequate coordination of prevention and management of disasters and humanitarian crises;
- → Insufficient financial contribution from the State;
- → Lack of support from certain TFPs.

Threats

- → Insecurity;
- → Political instability;
- → Increasing climate change.

Opportunities

- → Political will;
- → Availability of arable land;
- → Groundwater availability;
- → Available manpower.



Conclusion

In the light of the above, it is clear that, given its context, Niger was quick to grasp the importance of food and nutritional security for its people. The many food, nutritional and pastoral crises we have experienced have further reinforced the particular emphasis placed on this issue. These crises are occurring in a context marked by galloping demographics, high foreign debt, poorly adapted local traditions and cultures, and severe climatic conditions. While insecurity and climate change are obvious threats, political instability is another, as it can call into question agreements and commitments initially made, as well as freezing funds intended for vulnerable populations.

Niger's legal system includes a multitude of texts which, directly or indirectly, enshrine the right to food or food and nutrition security. Although there is no specific law on the subject, domestic law does have a number of legislative and regulatory texts that contribute to the realization of these rights. Most of these relate to the governance of natural resources, although there are gaps that limit their full effectiveness. Similarly, several legal texts have been adopted to give effect to Niger's international and regional commitments.

Although a wide range of public policies have been implemented to promote the right to food and food and nutrition security, there are a number of obstacles that limit their impact. One of the most intuitive weaknesses is the absence of a national law on the right to food and food security. It's also easy to guess that the sheer number of these public policies does not ensure their coherence and coordination. To complete this list, we must add the inadequacy of the local and macro-economic context. The State remains, however, one of the major players in the implementation of these public policies, and its absence and shortcomings in terms of resources do not provide a sufficient and appropriate framework for implementing the infrastructures and policies needed to respond effectively to people's food needs.

It should be emphasized, however, that Niger has and collaborates with several national, regional and international institutions. While DNPGCA is the flagship institution for food crisis management, through its units, other national and regional institutions also contribute to early warning, planning, implementation and coordination of responses to shocks. The operation of the DNPGCA and the quality of dialogue with its various partners remain a major source of satisfaction. However, efforts still need to be made to improve the definition of mandates, roles and responsibilities between the DNPGCA and certain sectoral ministries. These are often unclear, and the specific modalities for responding to the needs of vulnerable households are poorly adapted. In addition, the DNPGCA often faces problems in mobilizing the funds needed to implement its activities. The support plan for vulnerable populations is the reference framework document for implementing prevention and response actions. In recent years, the budget allocated to its operation has been significantly reduced. Added to this is the mismatch between intervention needs and the State's budgetary calendar.

The DNPGCA's obstacles are not just financial. In its institutional and organizational evolution, the mechanisms on which the Framework Agreement is based have shown their limits. In fact, it is virtually impossible for the DNPGCA to expand to include new partners such as the food security cluster. These observations have been taken into account in the DNPGCA's strategy document and action plan, with a view to taking the necessary measures to clarify and strengthen collaboration with other partners (ministries, institutions, etc.).

The Support Plan remains the preferred advocacy tool for mobilizing resources in response to food crises. These crises are increasingly complex, sometimes structural, sometimes cyclical, even if in the case of structural crises, populations have been able to develop and shape their way of life.





It's clear that Niger has a number of significant assets in terms of realizing the right to food and food security. The political will is clear, as is the availability of arable land and groundwater. However, this framework has weaknesses that render the public policies implemented ineffective. Niger is handicapped by a cumbersome legislative and regulatory framework, poorly coordinated prevention and management measures, and a lack of state funding.



Appendices

A. Interview guide n°1

This guide is part of the NEEMA project, which aims to develop a new Food Resilience and Nutrition (FNR) program tailored to the needs of food systems in the Sahel and West Africa, with a particular focus on Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal. This project takes into account the impact of the Green Pact for Europe and the Farm to Table strategy.

Country:			
Full name:			
Organization/Institution/Department			
:			
Function:			
Contact:			
Organization and operation of the national food and n 1.1. Actors involved in food and nutrition security n 1.2. Strengths and weaknesses of food and nutrition	nanagement security management actors		
Forces	Weaknesses		

- 1.3. Interrelationships between the various players involved in food and nutrition security
- 1.4. Coordination and level of harmonization of operations
- 2. Legislative and regulatory framework for food and nutritional safety
- 3. Financial governance for food and nutrition security
 - 3.1. Mobilizing resources
 - 3.2. Preparing for operations
- 4. Efforts made by the government, technical and financial partners and NGOs
- 5. Evolution of food crises over the last ten (10) years and their impact on the food and nutrition situation





5.2. Impact

our general comments on the challenges of food and nutritional resilience	



B. <u>Interview guide n2</u>

Qualitative data collection - Guide to interviewing administrative and political authorities involved in the chain of public action aimed at achieving food and nutrition resilience in Niger.

Themes	Sample questions
Identification of respondent	 → Name → First name → Structure → Function → Location → Contact
General information for target institutions on food and nutrition resilience in Niger	 → What are your institution's missions? → What is the geographical scope of your institution? → What material, financial and human resources do you have for food and nutrition? → Do you have any partners? (if so, please list them, specifying the nature and status of your collaboration) → What are your views on food and nutrition resilience in Niger? → What role does your institution play in food and nutrition resilience?
Legal and policy framework for food and nutrition resilience	 → What legal and policy instruments underpin your food and nutrition resilience activities in Niger? → List of conventions and agreements signed and/or ratified by Niger (internationally, regionally and nationally) relating to food and nutritional resilience in Niger. → List of legislative and regulatory texts on food and nutritional resilience in Niger. → List of public policies on food and nutrition resilience in Niger.
Governance structures for food and nutrition resilience in Niger (UAM)	 → Mapping of organizations working on food and nutrition resilience in Niger → Governance framework for organizations working on food and nutrition resilience in Niger → Governance of organizations working on food and nutrition resilience in Niger.
Strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities for food and nutrition resilience in Niger	 → What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of these legal and political instruments? → What limits your actions in the field of food and nutritional resilience in Niger? → In your opinion, what factors threaten the achievement of food and nutritional resilience? → Are the results of your actions satisfactory? (Explain why)
Challenges and constraints of the food sector in Niger	→ What are the main difficulties you face in carrying out your tasks (legal, administrative, material, etc.)?
Recommendations / expectations and outlook	 → What elements of food and nutritional resilience do you consider important that we haven't touched on? → What are your current concerns about food and nutritional resilience?



Themes	Sample questions	
	→ What do you expect from public universities to contribute to food and nutritional resilience in Niger?	



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NEEMA has received funding from the European Union under grant agreement no. 101128930. The views and opinions expressed in this communication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.