

International Rescue Committee Niger: Strategy Action Plan



K McNulty / IRC



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IRC2020 GLOBAL STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The International Rescue Committee's (IRC) mission is to help the world's most vulnerable people survive, recover, and gain control of their future. The aim of the IRC's global strategy, IRC2020 (see right), is to make measurable improvements in safety, health, economic wellbeing, decision-making power and education. Therefore, the IRC has made investments to design more effective programs, use resources more efficiently, reach more people more quickly and better respond to beneficiaries' needs.



NIGER OVERVIEW

Niger is consistently considered to be among the poorest countries in the world. Political instability, chronic food insecurity, and natural disasters all present substantial humanitarian and development challenges.

Insecurity in Libya, conflict in Mali, and violent extremism in northeastern Nigeria all threaten Niger's stability. Multiple conflicts on the Nigerian and Malian borders of Niger have resulted in continuing humanitarian crises, high levels of vulnerability, and an increasing influx of displaced persons from Mali and Nigeria. Between 80,000 and 100,000 migrants cross Niger each year to

reach Libya, Algeria and/or Europe.

Chronic food insecurity combines with conflict, droughts, floods, and locust infestations to trigger major food and nutrition crises. Water quality is below international standards and largely inaccessible in some parts of the country. Sanitation facilities are often of poor quality – contributing to chronic cholera epidemics. Disease outbreaks occur regularly, exposing the population to preventable diseases, like measles, meningitis, and malaria.

Furthermore, systematic discrimination against women and

girls leads to widespread gender-based violence. Niger has one of the highest rate of child marriage and the highest fertility rate in the world.

Serving populations with the greatest needs since 2013, the IRC has established itself as a leader in Niger and will continue to build upon its established expertise to serve beneficiaries in new ways. The IRC's new strategy for Niger illustrates its commitment to improving the safety, health, economic wellbeing, decision-making power, and education of crisis-affected people in Niger.

IRC'S STRATEGIC PROGRAMMING

Through the end of 2020, the IRC's new strategy in Niger will prioritize improving health, safety, economic wellbeing, and decision-making power (see Figure 1). The IRC will reach around 500,000 people in Niger by the end of 2020, specifically targeting internally displaced people, refugees, returnees from Nigeria, and host communities affected by crisis.

Community-based protection services will promote the safety of crisis-affected people, especially women and children. Conflict prevention and mitigation will be promoted through community awareness-raising and training.

The IRC will deliver enhanced nutrition and reproductive health interventions in tandem with the promotion of basic health care. Such programs will provide lifesaving treatment and work to enhance collaboration with the government.

Food security will be improved through programs to enhance value chains, livestock management, and nutrition. The IRC will strive to build resilience to recurring shocks, specifically engaging women, and continue to provide emergency support, like cash grants, to communities in crisis.

The IRC will also help people to exercise free and informed choices about where to live by supporting the voluntary internal relocation, return and reintegration of Nigeriens, Nigerian and Malian refugees.

The IRC's commitment to gender equality strives for equal outcomes for women and girls, and men and boys. To narrow the gender gap, the IRC will incorporate gender-focused programming into all activities.

Figure 1: Priority Outcomes and Future Programs

	Priority Outcomes in Niger	Future Programs
SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > People are safe in their communities and receive support when they experience harm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Enhance the protection of children and women > Promote social cohesion, conflict prevention and mitigation for refugees, returnees, and host communities > Improve access to financial services of women and girls
HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Women and girls are protected from and treated for the consequences of gender-based violence (GBV) > Children are protected from and treated for malnutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Improve access to health facilities and quality of healthcare > Ensure adequate nutrition and food security > Provide reproductive health services > Strengthen health systems
ECONOMIC WELLBEING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > People are food secure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Improve food security through agricultural recovery, value chain development, and emergency support > Promote resilience by strengthening knowledge, governance, and asset building, with a focus on women's participation > Provide sustainable longer-term livelihoods solutions to strengthen households' and communities' resilience
POWER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > People are able to exercise free and informed choices about where to live 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Support voluntary internal relocation, return and reintegration of Nigeriens, Nigerian and Malian refugees

COMMITMENTS FOR IMPACT

In order to maximize impact and achieve priority outcomes the IRC in Niger is making new investments to improve program effectiveness, use resources more efficiently, reach more people, be more responsive to beneficiaries and partners, and react more quickly when crisis strikes. The IRC made the following commitments to strengthen programming and improve the lives of the people it serves in Niger.

Figure 2: Commitments to Ensure Impact



Effectiveness

- > Implement an enhanced and flexible monitoring and evaluation system with electronic data collection, to inform evidence-based interventions



Best Use of Resources

- > Reduce procurement costs through digital supply chain procedures with the most up-to-date market analyses



Scale & Reach

- > Develop staff emergency capacity across the IRC to enable broader geographic reach when crisis strikes



Responsiveness

- > Establish feedback and redress mechanisms across all program areas, while working with partners to ensure programs adapt to beneficiary needs



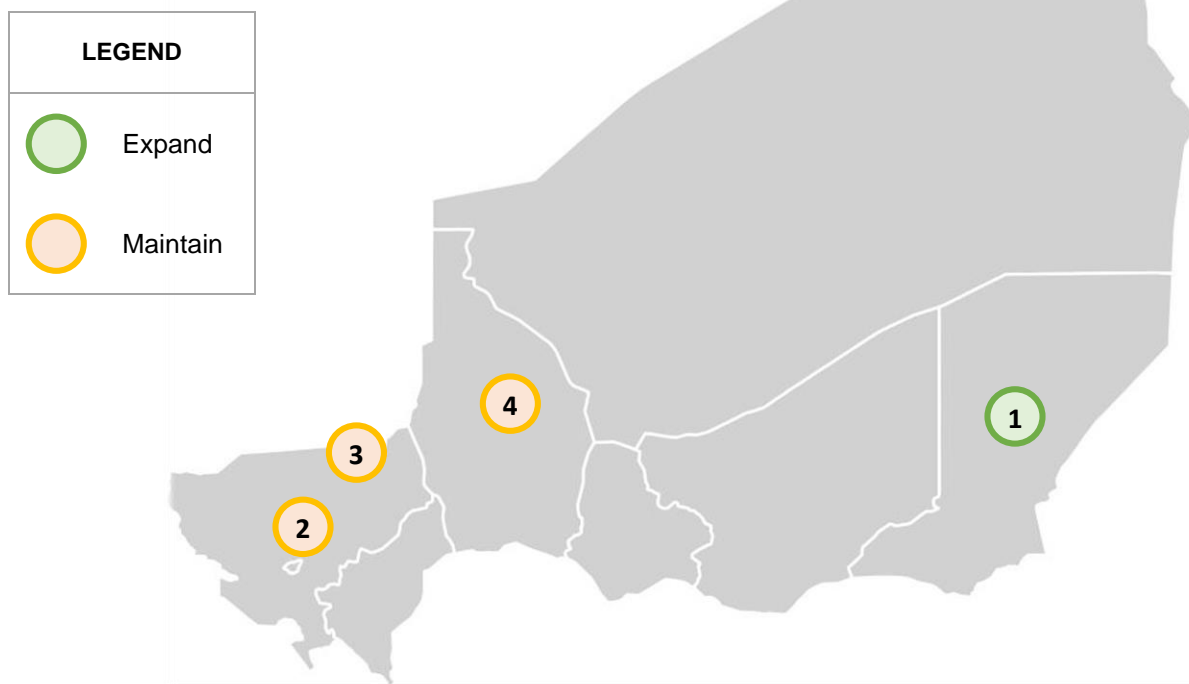
Speed & Timeliness

- > Establish an emergency response team to respond quickly to crises throughout the country
- > Partner with donors and suppliers to prepare standby emergency intervention stocks and establish procedures to be ready when crisis strikes

IRC'S STRATEGIC PRESENCE

From now until the end of 2020, the IRC will maintain and expand its presence in sites across Niger, based on an analysis of where the greatest needs are and where the IRC can create the biggest impact. At the same time, the IRC will also establish emergency response capacity in sites across the country to be prepared when crisis strikes.

Figure 3: The IRC's Geographic Transitions in Niger



Location	Geographic Transition
1 Diffa	Expand current programs to achieve improvements in safety, health, economic wellbeing, decision-making power and education
2 Niamey	Continue collaboration with the Government and partners to support the priority outcomes at a national level
3 Tillaberi	Maintain nutrition programming and continue support to Malian refugees
4 Tahoua	Continue timely interventions in favor of Malian refugees



M Meier / IRC

The IRC in Niger

Matias Meier, Country Director

 Matias.Meier@rescue.org

 [@meier_matias](https://twitter.com/meier_matias)

 [Rescue.org/where/Niger](https://www.rescue.org/where/Niger)



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