

Republic of Niger



Participant in the Study Visit

Dr Aboubacar Mahamadou is the Coordinator of the Nutrition Unit at the High Commission for the 3N Initiative (HC3N) - Nigériens Nourishing Nigériens. His work focuses on nutrition policies and strategies, monitoring and analysing the nutrition situation, defining actions and overseeing their implementation, strengthening stakeholders' capacities, and multifactorial coordination. He has 13 years' experience within the Nigerien government as well as with United Nations agencies and NGOs, in both development and emergency contexts.

Nutrition Facts

Niger is actively working towards achieving maternal, infant, and young child nutrition (MIYCN) targets, with ongoing efforts to accelerate progress across key indicators. According to SOFI 2025, some progress has been made in exclusive breastfeeding, with 24.5% of infants aged 0 to 5 months exclusively breastfed in 2023 when compared to 23.3% in 2012. The national implementation score of legal measures related to the implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes is 37 (out of a maximum of 100).

However, the country has made no progress in reducing stunting, which affected 48.3% of children under five in 2024—a figure substantially higher than the Western Africa average of 29.7%. Wasting prevalence was at 10.9% in 2024, also above the Western Africa average of 6.5%. The prevalence of anemia among women of reproductive age remained high at 47.1%, in 2023, with limited progress observed since the 44.4% rate of 2012, highlighting the need for continued focused interventions. Data on low birth weight is insufficient, limiting the ability to assess progress on this indicator.

The prevalence of overweight children under five was low in 2024, at 2.6%, yet Niger continues to face challenges in meeting targets in preventing its increase as the childhood obesity was almost nonexistent, only 0.6%, in 2012. In terms of diet-related non-communicable diseases, obesity affects 6.0% of the adult population. Hypertension is a problem with a prevalence of 42%.

Policy, Governance and Coordination Mechanisms

Niger has strengthened its nutrition policy environment by adopting a decree reorganizing the National Technical Committee responsible for overseeing the implementation of the

National Nutritional Security Policy. The government regularly conducts SMART surveys and other data collection initiatives (e.g., PROSEHA, EVIAM) to monitor progress and inform policy alignment. Capacity building has been enhanced through the development of nutrition toolkits, training programs for nutrition actors, and diploma courses targeting ministry executives. However, continued efforts are required to secure adequate resources for training and to establish sustainable academic partnerships.

Key priorities include the implementation of the Abidjan Declaration action plan, with a focus on reaching marginalized and vulnerable populations. The 3N Initiative, launched by the President, aims to address chronic food deficits through mobilization of internal and external resources to promote sustainable agricultural development.

The institutional reorganization of the High Commission for the 3N Initiative (“Nigériens Nourish Nigériens”) underscores the President’s strong political commitment to addressing chronic food insecurity and revitalizing Niger’s agricultural sector.

Niger has established a national multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) for nutrition, which operates at both national and subnational levels with annual action plans to coordinate multisectoral nutrition efforts. The country has developed and implemented a National Nutrition Plan (2022–2025), guiding nutrition interventions and policy coherence. An advocacy and communications framework are in place, supported by a dedicated Advocacy Technical Working Group, to advance nutrition priorities and mobilize stakeholders.

The use of regular, data-driven assessments ensures that country priorities are well aligned and adapted to emerging needs. Capacity-building initiatives continue to strengthen nutrition programming and governance. Governance structures actively promote country leadership and mutual accountability, with the National System for the Prevention and Management of Food Crises (DNP-GCA), housed within the Prime Minister’s office, coordinating responses to food and nutritional emergencies. The Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management leads nutritional responses in displaced populations.

The SUN movement is active in Niger, with the presence of networks including Civil Society, Business, Academia, Donor, and UN-Nutrition, alongside engagement with youth, parliamentarians, and media. The SUN focal point is maintained at the Ministry of Public Health, Population and Social Actions.

The EBF rate is low in Niger; the national implementation score of legal measures is 37 (out of a maximum of 100).

Innovations in School Feeding

Niger has made significant strides in improving school feeding through the adoption of the School Connect Digital Platform, first piloted in the Zinder region in 2021. This innovative tool has digitized the management of 488 school canteens, with plans to expand coverage to an

additional 1,178 schools nationwide. The platform enables real-time monitoring of food stocks and distribution, facilitating timely decision-making and enhancing transparency. By reducing delays in data collection and streamlining supply chain management, School Connect supports the delivery of nutritious meals to over 327,000 children, particularly in hard-to-reach areas. This digital innovation is recognized as a transformative approach to strengthening Niger's school feeding program and improving child nutrition and educational outcomes.

Niger continues to make dedicated efforts to improve nutrition outcomes through strengthened governance, strategic policy implementation, and innovative programs such as the School Connect platform. While challenges remain, particularly in reducing stunting and anemia, ongoing multisectoral collaboration and political commitment provide a strong foundation to accelerate progress and improve the health and wellbeing of its population.

N4G Commitments (as of April 2025)

- Improving the Multisectoral Information System for Nutrition
- Increase in the national budget allocated to nutrition spending
- Strengthening the prevention of malnutrition in children under 5 years of age
- Strengthening the livelihoods of vulnerable households through social safety nets
- Improving treatment coverage for acute malnutrition
- Promote the production, processing, consumption of healthy and nutritious foods

**Niger is not yet a member of the
Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty.**

Engagement with the Healthy Diets Coalition

Niger joined the Healthy Diets Coalition at its formation in 2021, underscoring the country's commitment to global efforts on sustainable and nutritious diets. The national focal point for the Coalition also serves as the SUN focal point, ensuring coherence across platforms. While Niger has not yet presented its national priorities at HDSFS-organized events, opportunities will be explored to support more active engagement. Membership provides an opportunity to exchange experiences, strengthen commitments, and align with international actions to advance healthy diets and resilient food systems, leveraging the Coalition's diverse membership across both the Global South and Global North.

Remaining Challenges

Niger is advancing its multisectoral nutrition agenda, leveraging strong political commitment and innovative approaches to address persistent nutrition challenges. Despite struggles with high stunting and anemia rates, it is strengthening governance, coordination, and data-driven strategies to improve nutrition outcomes, especially among vulnerable populations such as children and women.