

Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation

Humanitarian Strategy 2022 - 2023

Sahel



Spanish
Cooperation

HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT STRATEGY 2022-2023

SAHEL

The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation (MAEUEC), is the principal management body of Spanish Cooperation. Humanitarian action is a major priority for this Agency in its efforts to combat poverty and promote sustainable development within the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

The AECID Humanitarian Action Office, created in 2007, is responsible for managing and implementing Spain's official humanitarian action, based on the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. The Office follows guidelines set out in the current Spanish Cooperation Master Plan and in the Spanish Cooperation Humanitarian Action Strategy for 2019-2026. This Strategy is the cornerstone of Spain's humanitarian action, following an approach based on the following priorities:

- rights, gender, age, and diversity
- disaster risk prevention, reduction, and reporting
- resilience, the do-no-harm principle, and conflict sensitivity
- concern for the environment

The Humanitarian Action Office also works within the framework of the National Strategy for Humanitarian Diplomacy, the guiding document for the principles and lines of action that govern Spanish humanitarian action at the national level.

Furthermore, AECID has undertaken different commitments regarding the quality of assistance, following the World Humanitarian Summit of 2016 and in accordance with the Grand Bargain adopted the same year.

Along these lines, to improve the effectiveness of the humanitarian response provided by AECID to major crises, humanitarian strategies have been established for priority geographical contexts, aligned with United Nations and European Union humanitarian response plans and complementary to the Country Partnership Frameworks in force, where appropriate.

Thus, this Humanitarian Action Strategy, which draws on the lessons learned from AECID humanitarian response planning in the 2018-2019 and 2020-2021 periods, seeks to address the main needs identified in this context by targeting specific sectors.

In addition, almost two years after Covid-19 was declared a global pandemic, and as we still find ourselves dealing with uncertainties that undoubtedly affect donors and recipients, it is clear that the effects of the pandemic have exacerbated global humanitarian needs while exponentially increasing the challenges that humanitarian actors must face in their daily work. The response to the pandemic and its impact on humanitarian contexts will undoubtedly continue to represent a significant proportion of the contributions channelled through international agencies and non-governmental organizations. In everything that we do, we will act in line with the Spanish Cooperation

Joint Response Strategy for the Covid-19 Crisis, which is based on the following priorities, always placing people at the heart of our actions:

- saving lives and strengthening health systems
- protecting and recovering rights and livelihoods and engaging in capacity-building for vulnerable people
- preserving and transforming socio-economic systems, rebuilding the production system, and strengthening democratic governance

This increasingly troubling humanitarian landscape, with its ever-growing needs, is further complicated by the alarming impact of the war in Ukraine on other humanitarian situations, especially in the area of food security and nutrition, owing to rising fuel and food prices and to the trade restrictions of the world's two main cereal producers (Russia and Ukraine).

The gender-, age- and diversity-based approach adopted in the Humanitarian Action Strategy must be mainstreamed into AECID actions. Therefore, the Agency will strive to ensure that in the projects it supports, the assistance, resources and services provided reach the entire target population, according to their specific needs, roles and capacities, paying special attention to women and children. Another priority will be that of preventing and responding to gender-based violence during humanitarian crises.

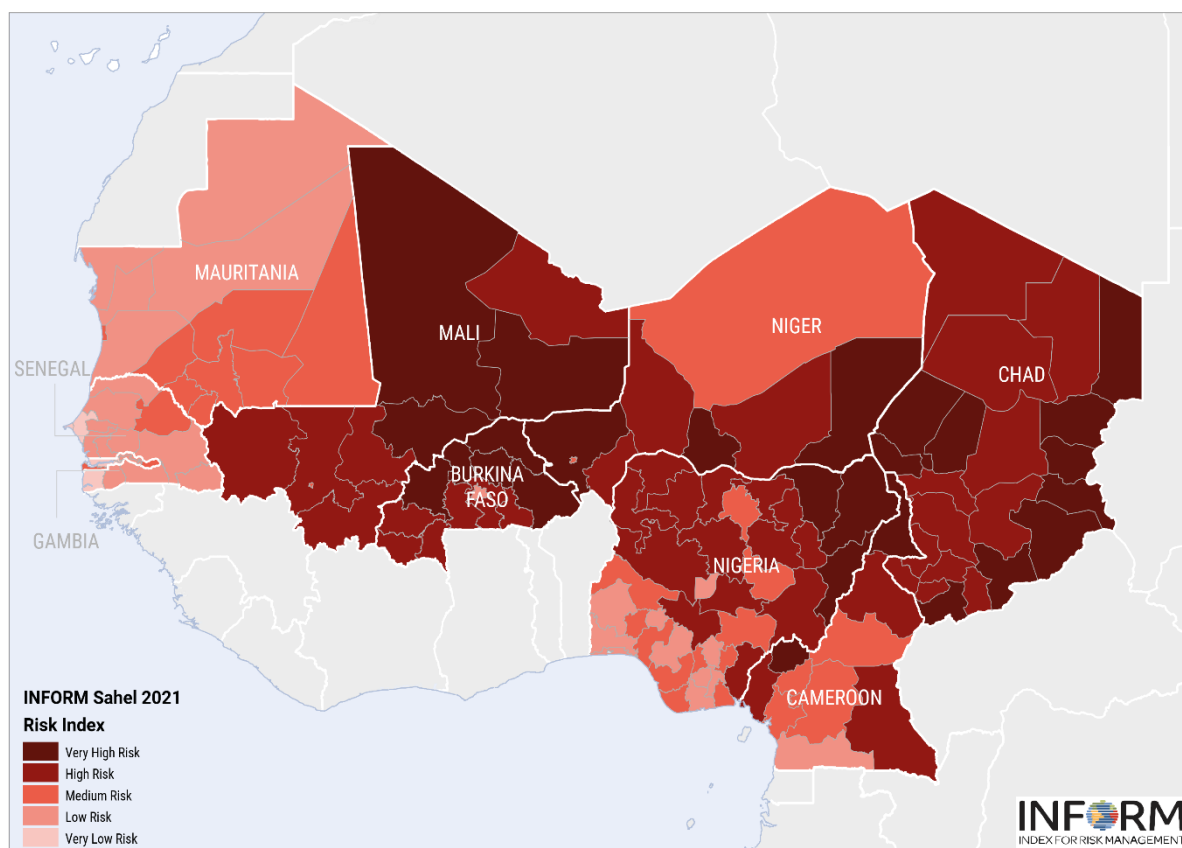
In this regard, AECID will support projects tagged with the code 3 and code 4 gender markers of the United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)¹ and mark 2 of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations of the European Commission (DG ECHO).²

As regards other horizontal priorities and approaches adopted by Spanish Cooperation, priority will be given to actions that feature an inclusive approach and results-based management, together with the effective mainstreaming of environmental sustainability, cultural diversity and human rights. The provision of cash assistance and vouchers will also be incorporated into humanitarian action as a key response element, and non-earmarked aid and support for local actors will be promoted as far as possible.

¹ IASC, Gender with Age Marker Information Sheet. Available at:
<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/iasc-gam-information-sheet.pdf>.

² DG ECHO, Gender-Age Marker Toolkit. Available at:
https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/gender_age_marker_toolkit.pdf.

1. BACKGROUND



The Sahel is one of the poorest regions in the world and is currently experiencing a **multidimensional crisis** of poverty, inter-communal conflict, climate change and rising religious extremism, marked by increasing instability and insecurity. The spread of violence in the Sahel region has led to a significant deterioration of the security situation. Islamist non-State armed groups are spreading across the region and reaching new areas of influence, particularly in the coastal countries, with attacks in Benin and Côte d'Ivoire, maintaining a stable presence in the border areas between the Sahelian and coastal countries. According to the April 2021 report “Sahel crisis: humanitarian needs and requirements overview, 2021”,³ which reflects updated data from the harmonized framework for the Sahel, 14 million people will be food insecure in a crisis and emergency phase, while 1.6 million children are expected to suffer from severe malnutrition and 5.3 million people to be forcibly displaced (internally displaced persons and refugees).

Of the nine countries that make up the region, four are in the bottom ten of the latest Human Development Report list published in 2020;⁴ these include Mali and Niger. The average annual population increase of 3.37% in these two countries contributes to making the entire region one of the areas with the highest population growth in the world: it is expected that by 2030 the population will reach 438.32 million people.⁵ However, this increase will not be accompanied by parallel economic growth, posing a serious risk to the most vulnerable populations, who suffer from

³ OCHA, Sahel crisis: humanitarian needs and requirements overview, 2021. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/burkina-faso/sahel-crisis-humanitarian-needs-and-requirements-overview-april-2021>.

⁴ UNDP, Human Development Report 2020. Available at: <https://hdr.undp.org/content/human-development-report-2020>.

⁵ The nine countries that make up the Sahel and Lake Chad region are included. Available at: <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/>.

deteriorating living conditions owing to lack of basic services and severe internal conflicts.

Country	Population 2021	Projected population 2030
Niger	25,130,817	34,846,000
Mali	20,855,735	26,957,000

In recent years, the civilian population has faced multiple episodes of violence (such as the Lake Chad crisis and the crisis in northern and central Mali). These tensions and conflicts have caused numerous human losses, destruction of infrastructure and forced displacements, causing large numbers of people to suffer. Added to this are the consequences of the recurrent declarations of states of emergency by Governments in the region to combat insecurity in certain areas, thus limiting the rights and self-sufficiency of the affected populations.

The region's notable exposure to the impact of climate change, the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, and extreme poverty all lead to chronic, predictable crises that require coordinated efforts, with a variety of financial and/or technical instruments, and greater involvement of other stakeholders. The progressive withdrawal of humanitarian donors to attend to other crises or emergency situations, the reduction of funds, and the aggravation of humanitarian needs following the effects of Covid-19 and, more recently, the worsening of the food insecurity situation due to the consequences of the war in Ukraine, all make it necessary to work with a more robust approach to disaster risk prevention that incorporates mechanisms for anticipatory action, as well as a better articulation of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in basic sectors (education, health, productive activities and food security).

The Humanitarian Action Office is focusing its operations in the Sahel on the countries of Mali and Niger, in line with its current budgetary and human capacity, but without forgetting other countries in the region, especially Burkina Faso and northeastern Nigeria, which are experiencing security and stability crises in serious humanitarian contexts.

Mali. Following the 2020 coup d'état, the security situation has worsened due to political instability and the weakness of Mali's State Security Forces. Added to this are instability factors generated by possible changes in the influences of the powers operating in the country.

The conflict between the Malian State and the Tuareg independence movements, which began with the 2012 coup d'état, marked the beginning of the destabilization of Mali, which has gradually spread throughout the country. At the beginning of 2022, only the city of Bamako and some parts of the Kayes region were excluded from the conflict, which has a complex origin involving inter-ethnic ancestral hatreds, religious radicalism, foreign interference and, above all, rampant poverty. This conflict has particularly affected the regions of Mopti, Bandiagara, Duenza, San, Segou, Gao, Menaka, Timbuktu and, from 2021, Sikaso and Kutiala, where radical groups operate from the border with Burkina Faso. The Kidal region, controlled by the Coalition des Mouvements de l'Azawad (CMA), is in

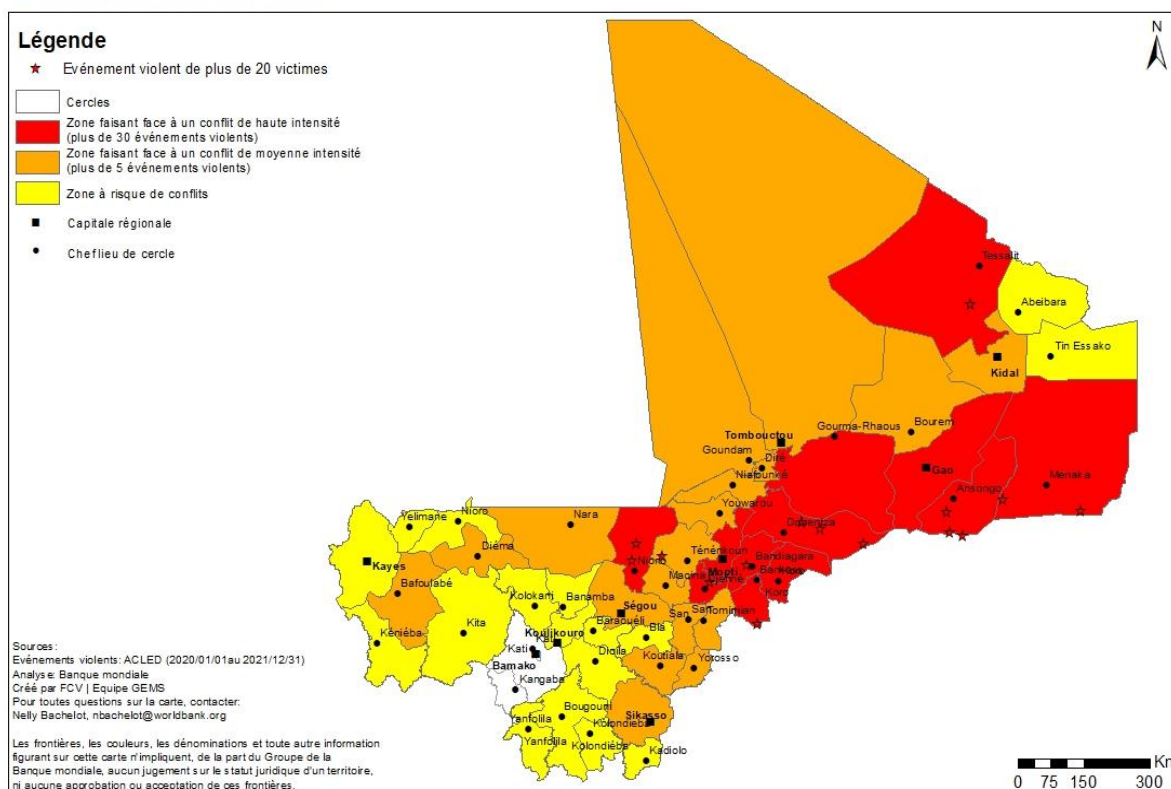
a chaotic situation due to the absence of humanitarian and development workers who, until recently, were the only ones providing services and assistance to the population.

In 2019, the number of internally displaced persons was slightly more than 200,000, according to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR); by 2022 the number had doubled, to 400,000,6 mostly women and children from the Peul and Dogon ethnic groups. These displaced people are crammed into camps or are taken in by families living in relatively calm areas, weakening social cohesion at a time when the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has caused the Malian population's scarce economic resources to dwindle even further. The central areas are bearing the brunt of the number of displaced people.

As at the date of publication of this Strategy, the number of food-insecure people in crisis, emergency and hunger phases is expected to continue to rise because of insecurity, growing political instability, Covid-19 crises and the effects of climate change (such as increasingly destructive and recurrent droughts and floods). Despite the efforts made by the international community, child malnutrition continues to rise: 10% of children under 5 years of age suffer from chronic malnutrition, with a particularly concerning situation in the region of Segou, especially in the Niono circle, and in the regions of Mopti, Bandiagara and Gao, where food insecurity is approximately 30%.

Mali - Zones en conflit et zone de prévention

Depuis le 01/01/2021 au 31/12/2021



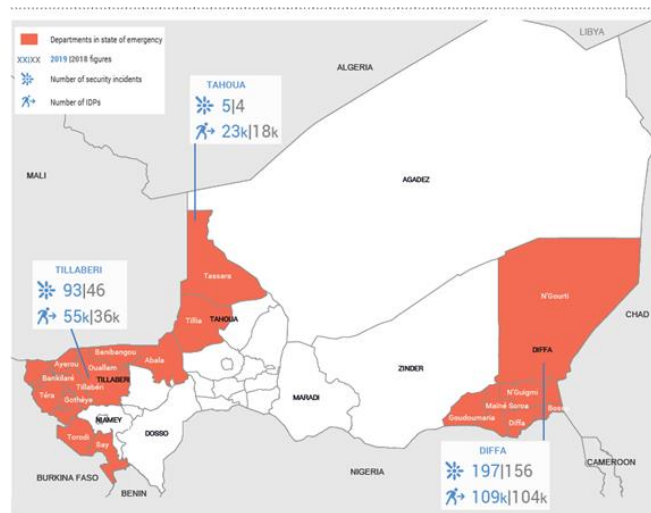
In terms of protection, the situation is also deteriorating due to the intensification of violence perpetrated by extremist groups, armed community groups, militias and, increasingly, by the State

⁶ UNHCR, Coordination Platform for Forced Displacement in the Sahel. Available at: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/sahelcrisis/location/8695>.

Security Forces themselves. The rise in killings, abductions, rapes, and attacks on children is particularly concerning, as is the emergence of inter-ethnic slavery. Most rights violations occur in the regions of Gao, Bandiagara, Mopti and Segou, those most affected by the conflict. Moreover, there are problems of humanitarian access linked to the activities of armed groups, the presence of explosive devices and mines, and the existing security vacuum.

Niger. According to UNHCR, the number of displaced persons, refugees and returnees in Niger exceeds 580,000 (255,401 refugees and 264,257 displaced persons).⁷ This figure has been rising for several years because of the

chronification and, in some cases, intensification of existing conflicts: in Diffa-Lake Chad region (129,835 refugees, 67,817 displaced persons), although there has been a notable decrease as a result of the voluntary return in the Diffa region, promoted by the Nigerien government in June 2021, of persons (7,376 households and 35,445 returnees from Nigeria); on the border Mali, in the regions of Tillabéri and Tahoua (with 20,629 refugees and internally displaced persons); and also new pockets of instability on the border with Burkina Faso (10,000 displaced persons) and the border of the Maradi region with Nigeria (57,122 refugees biometrically registered and 23,774 without biometric registration by UNHCR). In recent years, Niger has become both a transit country for migratory movements to North Africa and a host country (of resettlement of migrants and refugees).



the
return
40,138
with
55,625

Niger is exposed to sudden shocks (floods, droughts) and overlapping structural crises that weaken its resilience in terms of food and nutrition security. Moreover, the number of people in need of food and nutrition assistance and suffering from structural poverty remains high. The number of people in varying degrees of need is estimated at 3.8 million⁸ with no improvement and, year after year, many families are affected by rising prices, climate change and insecurity. According to the humanitarian needs overview, funding to meet these needs in Niger for 2022 could reach USD 75 million. The number of children out of school has risen owing to insecurity and natural disasters, especially in the Diffa and Tillabéri region, where many schools are closed. According to data from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as of November 2021, in the Tillabéri region alone, 339 schools have been closed because of the conflict, affecting 33,564 students and 781 teachers.

Humanitarian workers present in Niger are introducing the triple development-humanitarian-peace nexus approach as a priority, to strengthen the resilience of affected communities. In the same vein, the Government of Niger created the High-Level Technical Committee and its technical arm, the Tripartite Technical Committee on the Development-Humanitarian Nexus (French acronym CTTNUD)

⁷DG-ECHO, Niger, humanitarian crisis, July 2021. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/map/niger/niger-humanitarian-crisis-july-2021-dg-echo-daily-map-08072021>.

⁸ OCHA, Humanitarian needs overview, Niger, January 2021. Available (in French) at: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/es/operations/niger/document/niger-aper%C3%A7u-des-besoins-humanitaires-201>.

which, during the first half of 2021, developed an action plan for 2021-2023 with the objective of establishing a solid basis for operationalizing the triple nexus in national structures and promoting coordinated humanitarian responses with decentralized services.

Strategic positioning in the region is thus conditioned by a number of challenges:

- Access and security. Humanitarian access conditions have become increasingly complex, given the persistence of conflict, the presence of armed groups, civil-military coordination, the proliferation of landmines and the restrictions and containment measures enacted to curb the Covid-19 pandemic. Security conditions for humanitarian workers have worsened substantially, exposing humanitarian them to high levels of risk.
- Coordination. In the face of this worsening situation of insecurity, there is an increasing need for better coordination between the different humanitarian stakeholders present in the region.
- Complementarity between humanitarian and development agencies. In a context where development and humanitarian agencies are involved, it is essential to strengthen the coordination of work, based on complementarity, using resilience approach, deepening the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.
- Mainstreaming the environment and the fight against climate change. The serious consequences that the climate crisis is having in the region lead us to integrate into our interventions measures that mitigate the effects of climate change, generate resilience and adaptive capacity, and prevent disaster risks.

THE SAHEL (MALI AND NIGER): HUMANITARIAN INFORMATION

Population of Mali and Niger	Mali	20.85	45.98 million
	Niger	25.13	
People in need of humanitarian aid in Mali and Niger⁹	Mali	6.39	10.1 million
	Niger	3.8	
Displaced population (refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees)¹⁰	Mali	1.14	1.71 million
	Niger	0.578	
Child population suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM)¹¹	Mali	0.17	0.5 million
	Niger	0.4387	
Severely food insecure population¹²	Mali	1.3	4 million
	Niger	2.7	

⁹ OCHA, Global Humanitarian Overview 2022. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-humanitarian-overview-2022>.

¹⁰ UNHCR, Coordination Platform for Forced Displacement in the Sahel. Available at: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/sahelcrisis/location/8695>.

¹¹ UNICEF, Humanitarian Action for Children 2022 - Niger. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/niger/humanitarian-action-children-2022-niger>. UNICEF, Humanitarian Action for Children 2022 - Mali. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/mali/humanitarian-action-children-2022-mali>.

¹² *Ibid.*

GENERAL INFORMATION: DEVELOPMENT INDICES

Human Development Index¹³	Mali	0.434
	Niger	0.394
Vulnerability Index¹⁴	Mali	7.1
	Niger	7.3
Gender Inequality Index	Mali	0.671
	Niger	0.642

2. POPULATIONS IN A SITUATION OF VULNERABILITY

High levels of violence, food insecurity, malnutrition, incidence of climate change and endemic poverty show extreme levels of vulnerability of the population in the area. According to the Global Humanitarian Overview 2022¹⁵ there are 6.39 million people in Mali and 3.8 million in Niger in need of humanitarian assistance.

The most vulnerable population groups identified are:

- **Children:** Children are increasingly exposed to violence, owing to a rise in recent years of grave child rights violations in the Sahel region.¹⁶ These are mainly explained by high levels of child malnutrition, increased violence, children's involvement in conflict and lack of access to the school system. Severe acute malnutrition affects almost one in three children in Mali¹⁷ and

¹³ UNDP, Human Development Report 2020. Available at: <https://hdr.undp.org/content/human-development-report-2020>.

¹⁴ IASC, EU, INFORM Report 2021. Available at: <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/Portals/0/InfoRM/2021/INFORM%20Annual%20Report%202021.pdf>.

¹⁵ OCHA, Global Humanitarian Overview 2022. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-humanitarian-overview-2022>.

¹⁶ OCHA, Sahel 2021: Sahel overview of humanitarian needs and requirements. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/burkina-faso/sahel-crisis-humanitarian-needs-and-requirements-overview-april-2021>.

¹⁷ OCHA, Mali: Aperçu des besoins humanitaires, 2021. Available (in French) at: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/mali/document/mali-analyse-de-lacc%C3%A8s-humanitaire-juillet-%C3%A0-septembre-2021-0>.

Niger,¹⁸ with levels of acute malnutrition in children under five years of age being particularly severe, making malnutrition one of the main causes of death amongst children.

The forced recruitment of child soldiers by armed groups has not ceased recently, especially in the Liptako area, where Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso border each other. Added to this is the exposure of children in the region to abduction and use as wives or sex slaves. In addition to incessant radicalization and religious extremism, poor security conditions and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic severely limit children's access to education in the countries of the region, with a high number of closed schools. For example, one out of every two children in Niger between the ages of seven and twelve is out of school.

- **Women:** Gender-based violence has increased in the area in recent years, growing in the traditional, economic and, especially, health spheres. Widespread practices such as female genital mutilation, forced marriages, early pregnancies, and physical and psychological violence are compounded by the lack of economic resources and the lack of infrastructure and medical personnel adapted to the needs of women, girls and adolescents.
- **Displaced populations and host communities:** Owing to the different political and ethnic conflicts, there is a growing number of displaced persons, whose protection needs have increased, especially because of gender-based violence, but who also require support in other areas, such as education, shelter, health and other basic humanitarian assistance services. In Niger, the number of displaced persons exceeds 280,000 and in Mali, the number is almost 400,000,¹⁹ without taking into account the numbers of returnees and refugees. Moreover, the host communities' levels of vulnerability are rising in parallel, especially those that are seasonally exposed to food insecurity owing to the climate crisis. The host communities of displaced populations face, for the most part, the same humanitarian needs as the displaced populations themselves, because of the existing situation of vulnerability, in addition to having to share the scarce resources and services available.

3. MAIN HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

The humanitarian needs identified in 2021 respond to several factors, and are shared by the two countries, Mali and Niger, that make up the strategy:

- **Chronic food insecurity** has worsened significantly, owing to the impact of climate change, with increased flooding, low rainfall, recurring pests, and scarcity of pasture, all of which have reduced available resources. Furthermore, inter-community agricultural and livestock tensions have led to significant fluctuations in food prices. To minimise the impact of food insecurity, these structural causes need to be addressed. The most affected populations must also be included in food and nutrition assistance programmes. Mechanisms must also be put in place to

¹⁸ OCHA, Niger: Aperçu des besoins humanitaires, 2021. Available (in French) at: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/mali/document/mali-analyse-de-lacc%C3%A8s-humanitaire-juillet-%C3%A0-septembre-2021-0>.

¹⁹ OCHA, Mali: Aperçu des besoins humanitaires, 2021. Available (in French) at: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/mali/document/mali-analyse-de-lacc%C3%A8s-humanitaire-juillet-%C3%A0-septembre-2021-0>; OCHA, Niger: Aperçu des besoins humanitaires, 2021. Available (in French) at: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/mali/document/mali-analyse-de-lacc%C3%A8s-humanitaire-juillet-%C3%A0-septembre-2021-0>.

enable families to maintain their productive capacities.

- High rates of malnutrition remain one of the most urgent priorities: closely linked to food insecurity and the scarce availability of resources is the continuous increase in the number of people suffering from malnutrition and severe malnutrition. The objective in this area is to promote prevention mechanisms and proactive actions to improve the resilience of the affected population. Actions to identify and treat severe and moderate malnutrition any resulting illnesses, as well as community-based nutrition awareness programmes, should be maintained.
- Lack of protection. In recent years, the number of displaced persons or refugees has been steadily increasing due to the incidence of conflicts in the Liptako Gourma area in Niger, in the north of Mali, as well as in the Lake Chad basin, which continue to rage in 2021 and are expected to do so in the short term. Protection efforts must therefore be sustained, with a special focus on the needs of women and children who tend to be doubly affected by these realities.
- Education in emergencies. Education is one of the sectors that has suffered most from the effects of lockdowns and other measures to alleviate the COVID-19 pandemic, most especially education in conflict zones. More than 11,000 attacks on educational facilities, students and educational staff, which injured or killed more than 22,000 people in at least 93 countries, were reported between 2015 and 2019, according to the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack. Many schools were closed because of COVID-19, affecting more than 15 million children across the Sahel region; girls will find it much more difficult to re-enter the educational system. Between 2020 and 2021 alone, there have been 35 attacks on schools in Niger, and 377 schools have closed; in Mali, there have been 516 attacks, and 1,664 schools have closed.²⁰

Resolution 2601 (2021), adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 29 October 2021, of which Niger was one of the main promoters, marks a decisive step towards protecting the right to education in the world's most fragile contexts, condemning the lack of accountability for violations of International law, including International Humanitarian law, and abuses committed in armed conflict against civilians associated with schools, such as children and teachers, attacks and threats of attacks on schools and educational institutions. In addition, low school enrolment and high dropout rates increase risks for children, such as recruitment by armed forces and groups,²¹ higher exposure to domestic violence, and child exploitation or abuse.

The international community responded to these humanitarian needs **through a regional appeal** by the international community for eight Sahel countries for the year 2021 for an amount of USD 3.7 billion to assist 21 million people. Despite efforts to make the different crises visible, there were significant gaps in financial coverage for key sectors and considerable differences between countries: 68% of the appeal for Niger was covered, but only 38% for Mali.

4. STRATEGIC POSITIONING

²⁰ Education under attack, 2020. Available at: <https://eua2020.protectingeducation.org/#map>.

²¹ Paris Principles on Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups. Available at: https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/publications/ParisPrinciples_EN.pdf.

To fulfil the commitments made by AECID within the World Humanitarian Summit and the Grand Bargain and in response to the structural challenges in the region, attention will be paid to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach, especially regarding food security and nutrition, as well as to promoting cash transfers in programmes as a means of empowering the population.

4.1. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

SO1. Support populations in vulnerable situations in the face of food crises, and combat child malnutrition.

SO2. Guarantee the protection and security of vulnerable populations affected by armed conflicts, especially the most vulnerable groups (women and children).

SO3. Promote quality education in emergencies for children and adolescents affected by forced displacement in insecure or conflict areas.

4.2. INTERVENTION COUNTRIES

In the context of the Sahel, Mali and Niger are the countries on which the AECID Humanitarian Action Office will focus its interventions.

Mali: the areas most directly affected by armed and inter-communal conflict, in the central regions of Mopti and Segou and in the northern regions of Timbuktu, Gao and Menaka.

Niger: the Diffa region, because of the Lake Chad crisis with millions of displaced persons and refugees; the regions of Tillaberi and Tahoua, because of the conflicts of jihadist armed groups on the border with Mali and Burkina Faso (Liptako Gourma); and the Maradi region, because of ethnic conflicts on the border with Nigeria.

Attention will also be given to the region as a whole, particularly northeast Nigeria and Burkina Faso.

4.3. INTERVENTION SECTORS

The sectors on which humanitarian response is to initially focus have been prioritized on the basis of the identified humanitarian needs and in coherence with the Strategic Objectives in 4.1 above.

This response focuses on the following sectors: food security and child malnutrition, protection, and education in emergencies.

PRIORITY INTERVENTION SECTORS/SUBSECTORS BY COUNTRY PAR PAYS

	SECTOR	SUBSECTOR
NIGER	Food security and nutrition	Enhance the productive capacity of the displaced population and host communities to improve livelihoods and strengthen sustainability. Combat severe and moderate acute malnutrition. Meet the essential food and nutrition needs of displaced persons and host communities during the crisis and post-crisis periods through cash transfers and basic food baskets.
	Protection	Multi-sectoral assistance to refugees, displaced persons and host communities affected by conflict and insecurity in both Mali and Nigeria. Prevention and assistance to victims of gender-based violence.
	Education in emergencies	Provide quality education to children in an equitable and inclusive manner. Strengthen the resilience capacities of the education system (training of educational actors on social cohesion, culture of peace, and disaster risk reduction).
MALI	Food security and nutrition	Meet the essential food and nutrition needs of displaced persons and host communities during the crisis and post-crisis through cash transfers and basic food basket mechanisms. Combat severe and moderate acute malnutrition. Enhance the productive capacity of the displaced population and host communities to improve livelihoods and strengthen sustainability.
	Protection	Multi-sectoral assistance to displaced persons and host communities affected by the conflict in the north of the country. Prevention of and assistance to victims of gender-based violence.
	Education in emergencies	Provide quality education to children in an equitable and inclusive manner. Strengthen the resilience capacities of the education system (training educational workers on social cohesion, culture of peace, and disaster risk reduction).

4.4. MAIN PARTNERS

During the period of this Strategy, an effort will be made to move towards localization of aid by considering support for humanitarian funds or, where possible, direct funding to local stakeholders with a comparative advantage in the sectors prioritized in this strategy.

AECID will channel its action through organizations specialized in emergency humanitarian response, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as well as specialized bodies and agencies of the United Nations. AECID will also rely on the work of non-governmental organizations with proven economic and technical solvency that have previous experience in the geographical context of this Strategy.

Organizations should work effectively with national public entities, as well as with local or regional

organizations. They should also play an active and ongoing role in humanitarian emergency response coordination forums that have been established in the country.

5. ACCOUNTABILITY MATARIX

		INDICATORS
General		<p>Final annual budget disbursed in the Sahel context.</p> <p>Final annual budget disbursed by sector and country.</p> <p>No. of people benefiting annually from interventions in this context</p> <p>Annual budget in this context for cash transfers (cash and vouchers).</p> <p>Annual budget disbursed on interventions with gender markers 2a and 2b (IASC) or 3 and 4 (DG ECHO) in this context.</p> <p>No. of local/national organizations funded in this context.</p>
Sectoral	Protection	<p>No. of women and children victims of gender-based violence who have received assistance.</p> <p>No. of women and children who have received psychosocial assistance.</p> <p>No. of unaccompanied minors under alternative care and protection.</p> <p>No. of persons benefiting from support in documentation and/or voluntary repatriation processes.</p> <p>No. of people sensitised, informed and/or trained in international humanitarian law.</p> <p>No. of persons at risk of forced displacement who have received support/assistance.</p>
	Food security	<p>No. of people receiving food assistance.</p> <p>No. of persons receiving cash transfers (cash and vouchers).</p>
	Nutrition	<p>No. of people with moderate and severe malnutrition assisted annually.</p> <p>No. of caregivers of minors receiving information/training on infant feeding.</p> <p>No. of centres strengthened in their capacity to care for malnutrition.</p>
	Education in emergencies	<p>No. of school-age children (3-17 years) affected by crisis who attend a class or have a teacher trained in psycho-social support.</p> <p>No. of school-age children (3-17 years) affected by the crisis who receive a dignity kit and/or school kit.</p> <p>No. of parents who have received community messages promoting improved access to a safe learning environment.</p>

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