



During the year 2021, public health and health emergencies remained at the centre of public attention around the world, including in Niger. WHO continued to play a key role while strengthening its accountability towards its partners and the populations that count on it.

In its 13th General Programme of Work 2019–2023, WHO has chosen to confront the challenge of improving health around the world, focusing on three strategic priorities: improving universal health coverage; responding to health emergencies; and promoting the health of populations, while placing countries' needs at the centre of its actions.

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC)

In Niger, the average UHC service coverage reached 49.1% in 2021, up from 48.9% in 2020. WHO has assisted the Government of Niger in the development, validation and dissemination of strategic and operational documents; the implementation of strategies to ensure the continuity of basic health services; the strengthening of capacities of health personnel and health institutions; and the creation of health accounts, and programmatic reviews and evaluations.

Routine vaccination



The country made significant progress during 2021 compared to 2019 and 2020, despite the continued spread of COVID-19

Number of children vaccinated in 2021 compared with 2020 and 2019

	2019	2020	2021
1 st dose of pentavalent vaccine	994,832	1,001,280	1,029,195
Completed pentavalent vaccine series	947,475	943,176	970,564
1 st dose of vaccine against measles	940,636	940,887	974,492
2 nd dose of vaccine against measles	636,323	649,646	700,928

The organization of the 2021 African Vaccination Week allowed for 3,706 zero-dose children to be vaccinated with Penta1 against the 3,774 targeted, and 5,672 children vaccinated with Penta3 against the 5,946 targeted.



FINANCING OF WHO NIGER

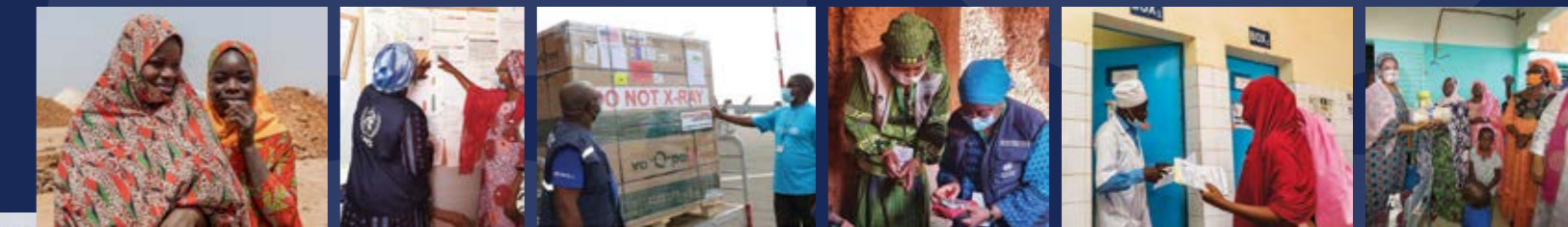
- The total budget for all programme activities in 2020–2021: US\$43,064,195;
- Budget financed: US\$31,489,900, or 73% of the total budget;
- Budget execution rate: 94% of available funds, with the balance transferred to the next biennium.

Out of all funding received during 2020–2021, US\$9.9 million, or around 30%, was mobilized locally, of which US\$4 million was mobilized in 2021 alone, mainly from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) (US\$1,722,424), the United States of America (USA) (US\$1,118,996) and the European Union (US\$1,116,582).

Top contributors to WHO Niger in 2020–2021 included the United Kingdom, the World Bank, Rotary International, CERF, Germany, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the European Commission, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the USA and Canada.

WHO Niger would like to take this opportunity to thank all contributors for their trust and collaboration.

WHO Niger Annual Report



Summary



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Maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH)



- The percentage of births assisted by a skilled health attendant increased from 38.8% in 2020 to 39.3% in 2021.
- Antenatal care coverage (at least four visits) went from 31.3% in 2020 to 34% in 2021.
- The postnatal care coverage went from 12.4% in 2020 to 13.9% in 2021.

Cancer



- More than 3,000 women in the regions of Niamey and Maradi benefited from campaigns that offered free screening services for breast cancer and cervical cancer.

HIV



- 48 new sites offering antiretroviral treatment were set up, bringing the total to 178.

Tuberculosis



- 43 one-stop sites for managing TB/HIV co-infection were set up in the region of Tillabéry, Dosso and Zinder.

Malaria



- 7,886,332 people received long-lasting insecticidal nets and more than 4 million children under five years of age benefited from seasonal malaria chemoprevention.

Access to essential medicines



- The stock-out rate of medicines at the operational level decreased from 9.09% in 2020 to 4.44% in 2021.

Access to quality health care



- There was a reduction in the mortality rate of patients in the 24 hours following their hospital admission: :
 - From 14.4% in 2020 to 13.3% in 2021 for medical emergencies;
 - From 6.1% in 2020 to 5.6% in 2021 for surgical emergencies.
- There was also a decrease in the rate of early post-operative complications (in the seven days following the intervention), from 3.5% in 2020 to 1.2% in 2021.



PREPARING FOR AND RESPONDING TO HEALTH EMERGENCIES

In 2021, Niger experienced four epidemics, namely, COVID-19, measles, meningitis and cholera, in addition to floods. A response to this was made possible with the mobilization of all stakeholders, especially through the organization of targeted vaccination campaigns and active surveillance.

Non-COVID-19 health emergencies

- WHO provided medicines and materials for the case management of cholera, meningitis and common diseases and for responding to the impacts of flooding.
- WHO equipped the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) with a control room with a monitoring screen and ICT materials.
- 363,931 people (between the ages of two and 29) were vaccinated against meningitis in two health districts of the region of Niamey with an administrative coverage of 85%.
- 1,050,066 people (above one year of age) were vaccinated against cholera (first round) in three health districts of Maradi with an administrative coverage of 92%.

The COVID-19 health emergency

- Ten GeneXpert machines were provided to nine diagnostic sites at the department level and the Centre for Medical and Health Research (CERMES) in Niamey, as along with 30,446 pieces of personal protective equipment.
- ICT materials and various other items were supplied to strengthen data collection.
- 1,781,248 people (aged over 18) were partially vaccinated during 2021 against the total target of 10,319,338.
- 1,012,424 people were completely vaccinated, which account for 10% of the targeted population (18 years and above) as set by the country, or 4% of the total population.
- The capacity of CERMES was strengthened to carry out genomic surveillance.

Key figures of the COVID-19 situation in Niger as of 31 December 2021



Eradication of polio

- 9,930,636 children in three regions of the country (Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder) received one dose of vaccine against polio out of which 5,544,409 were vaccinated with the bivalent vaccine and 4,386,227 with the new monovalent vaccine nOPV2.
- The share of polio samples received in good condition rose from 73% in 2019 to 91% in 2020 and 99% in 2021.



PROMOTION OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF THE POPULATION

This pillar required the development of multisectoral actions in coordination with non-health sectors whose interventions have a strong influence on human health. Awareness-raising of the dangers of tobacco was a very important achievement under this pillar, as was the adoption of the WASH FIT tool by the country, which aimed at promoting a healthy environment in hospitals.

COUNTRY SUPPORT

WHO provided support to:

- Improving the health information system;
- The reform of coordination mechanisms of the health sector of Niger;
- The mapping of partners in the health sector;
- The evaluation of the previous Health Development Plan and the development of the new one;
- The evaluation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the development of the new one;
- Strengthening the capacities of officials of the Ministry of Public Health, Population and Social Affairs in the programme of "Pathway to Leadership for the Transformation of Health in Africa".