

# Country Disease Outlook

## Niger

August 2023



World Health  
Organization

African Region

### Background

The Republic of the Niger is a landlocked country in west Africa, bounded by Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Libya, Mali, and Nigeria.

It is a low-income country with a GDP per capita of US\$ 533 (2022) and a population of 26.2 million (2022).

### Key points

- ◆ Niger has a high burden of communicable and non-communicable disease (NCDs), with the latter making up 30% of deaths in 2019.
- ◆ Niger improved its under-five mortality rates between 2015 and 2021, however it is far from reaching the SDG targets. In contrast, the neonatal rate remained high and constant throughout the period.
- ◆ Niger is endemic for four of the five NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA). In 2020, 94% of the 7.2 million people targeted were treated with MDA.
- ◆ Niger's coverage rates of vaccination in children have historically been below the 90% target rate. In 2021, the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine reached 82%, while the coverage rate for the first dose of measles vaccine was 80%. It is important for Niger to continue to strengthen its routine immunization system, while also implementing catch-up vaccination strategies in the country to ensure that no children are left unprotected from vaccine-preventable diseases in the future.

**UHC/CN**

Universal Health Coverage/Communicable  
and Non-communicable Diseases  
WHO Regional Office for Africa





2019

30%

of deaths due to NCDs

## Broad disease outlook

The country has a high burden of both communicable (such as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS) and non-communicable disease (NCDs). The latter was estimated to have caused 30% of deaths in 2019.

## Communicable diseases

### Malaria

Malaria remains a public health problem in Niger with an estimated 8.1 million cases in 2021, resulting in 24,997 deaths. The country is off track to meet the targets set by the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria as the malaria incidence rate has not decreased sufficiently since 2015 and has been above the annual targets since 2017.

### Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS

The mortality rate of TB cases (all forms, excluding HIV coinfection) has decreased from 19 to 13 per 100,000 population between 2015 and 2021. The TB mortality rate among HIV-positive people has remained low and has decreased from 2 to 0.86 in the same period.

Niger has met one of the 95-95-95 goals:

- ▲ 79% of people living with HIV know their status.
- ▲ 98% of the people living with HIV that know their status are on treatment.
- ▲ 79% of people living with HIV and on treatment are virally suppressed.

Approximately 24,292 people were receiving antiretroviral treatment in 2021.

### Neglected tropical diseases

Niger is endemic for four of the five NTDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy through mass drug administration (MDA), namely lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, and trachoma. In 2020, 6.8 million of the 7.2 million people targeted (94%) were treated with MDA.

Other notable NTDs that remain endemic are cystic echinococcosis, leishmaniasis (cutaneous and visceral), foodborne trematodiasis, taeniasis and cysticercosis, leprosy, and rabies

## Non-communicable diseases

NCDs are a significant health problem in Niger. The age-standardised mortality rate across four major NCDs (Cardiovascular Disease, Chronic Respiratory Disease, Cancer and Diabetes) was 638 per 100,000

in males and 583 in females in 2021.

Niger has implemented efforts on the NCD progress indicators on areas including the NCD policy and plan, tobacco taxes, tobacco smoke free/pollution, tobacco health warnings, tobacco advertising bans, however there is limited progress against a number of the indicators. These include tobacco media campaigns, salt policies, trans fats policies, marketing to children and physical activity awareness.

## Childhood Immunization

Niger's coverage rates of vaccination in children have historically been below the 90% target rate. In 2021, the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine reached 82%, while the coverage rate for the first dose of measles vaccine was 80%. This resulted in 66,241 zero-dose children and 198,724 under-immunized children. It is important for Niger to continue to strengthen its routine immunization system, while also implementing catch-up vaccination strategies in the country to ensure that no children are left unprotected from vaccine-preventable diseases in the future.

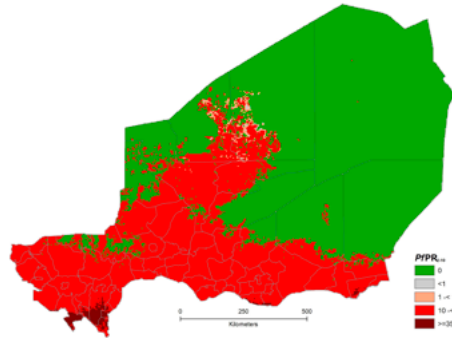
## Child survival

Based on the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) estimates, the under-5 mortality rate has fallen from 120 to 115 per 1,000 live births between 2015 and 2021, although it is still above the SDG target of 25 per 1,000 live births. In contrast, the neonatal mortality rate remained constant at 34 per 1,000 live births in the same period, remaining above the SDG target of 12.

**MALARIA**

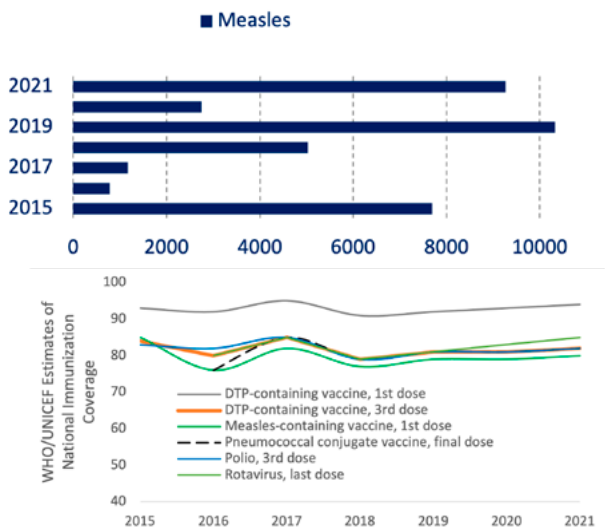
POPULATION AT RISK IN 2022	TOTAL MALARIA CASES IN 2021	TOTAL MALARIA DEATHS IN 2021
<b>25.3 million</b>	<b>8.1 million</b>	<b>24,997</b>

ITN use in children under five years 20.1% and 37.8% use of ACTs among those with fever for whom care was sought and received a finger or heel prick

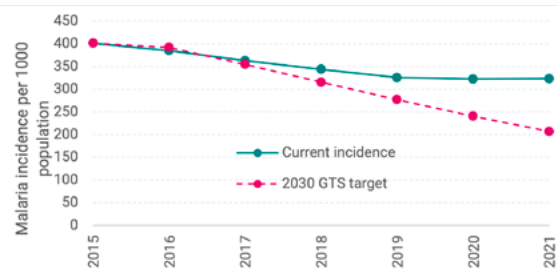


*Plasmodium falciparum* malaria prevalence in children in Niger in 2020. Estimates from the Malaria Atlas project

**EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION IN CHILDREN**



**Malaria incidence in Niger since 2015 compared to GTS targets shows that the country is not on track for GTS targets**



**Zero dose children 66,241 Under-immunized 198,724**

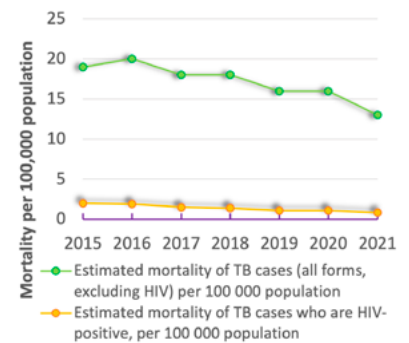
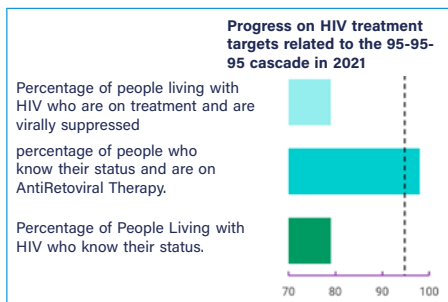
WUENIC estimates show that vaccination coverage for basic vaccines averages >75% with DTP1>90%.

Measles major case burden with over 5000 cases in 2015, 2019 and 2020

**HIV AND TUBERCULOSIS**

- 24,292** people receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2021
- 82%** Treatment success rate for HIV-positive TB cases
- 12%** of children (aged < 5 years) household contacts of bacteriologically-confirmed TB cases on preventive treatment

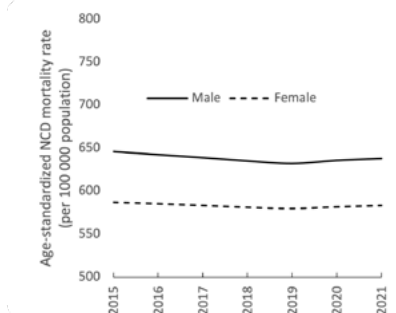
**Unknown** Domestic funding for TB  
**12.3%** Domestic funding for HIV



- Indicator 1 - Targets
- Indicator 2 - CRV Mortality
- Indicator 3 - Surveys
- Indicator 4 - NCD policy and Plan
- Indicator 5A - Tobacco taxes
- Indicator 5B - Tobacco smoke free/pollution
- Indicator 5C - Tobacco health warning
- Indicator 5D - Tobacco advertising ban
- Indicator 5E - Tobacco media campaign
- Indicator 6A - Alcohol availability
- Indicator 6B - Alcohol advertising restrictions
- Indicator 6C - Alcohol taxes
- Indicator 7A - Salt policies
- Indicator 7B - Trans fats policies
- Indicator 7C - Marketing to children
- Indicator 8 - Physical activity awareness
- Indicator 9 - NCD guidelines

**NCD PROGRESS INDICATORS**

- **Achieved**
- **Partially achieved**
- **Not achieved/Unknown**



**NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES**

- Endemic NTDS requiring Preventive Chemotherapy (PC)**
- Lymphatic filariasis
  - Schistosomiasis
  - Soil-transmitted helminthiasis
  - Trachoma

**PC-NTDs treatment in 2021**  
**7.2 million** targeted for MDA  
**6.8 million** treated with MDA

**OTHER MAJOR NTDS**

- Cystic echinococcosis
- Leishmaniasis (cutaneous and visceral)
- Foodborne trematodiasis
- Taeniasis and cysticercosis
- Leprosy
- Rabies

