

36. Country profile: Niger



1. Development profile

Niger is a large, landlocked country. The majority of its population – an estimated 15 million people – live along the country's southern border, in a narrow band of arable land.¹ It is one of the poorest countries in the world, and has “minimal government services and insufficient funds to develop its resource base”.² The economy is dominated by agricultural activity, including rearing livestock, mining uranium (of which Niger has the world's largest deposits) and informal trading activities. Rain-fed agriculture accounted for about 46.7 percent of GDP in 2006, while livestock production accounts for about one-third of the value added in the sector.³ Desertification and frequent droughts, which are common in the Sahel region, disrupt agricultural activities and hinder the country's ability to adequately feed its population.

In 2008, Niger was ranked last (182/182) on the UNDP's Human Development Index. More than half – 61 percent – of Niger's population lives on less than a dollar per day,⁴ and the average per capita income was estimated at \$330 USD in 2008.⁵ Social indicators are poor, with an infant mortality rate of 79 per 1,000 live births, a life expectancy of 51 years, a literacy rate of 30 percent, and net primary school enrolment and attendance at an estimated 38 percent.⁶ Niger's annual GDP growth rate per capita is extremely volatile – estimated at 3.2 percent in 2007, it rose to 9.3% in 2008 (reflecting strong agricultural sector performance) and dropped to -1.2% in 2009 – but has generally been low overall.⁷

¹ *Country Brief: Niger*. (2009, September). Retrieved from World Bank: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/AFRICAEXT/NIGEREXTN/0,,menuPK:382460~pagePK:141132~piPK:141107~theSitePK:382450,00.html>

² *Niger*. (2010). CIA World Factbook 2010. Retrieved from United States Government, Central Intelligence Agency: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ng.html>

³ *Country Programme Niger 10614.0 (2009-2013)*. (2008, August 22). Document submitted to the Executive Board of the World Food Programme. Retrieved from World Food Programme: http://one.wfp.org/operations/current_operations/project_docs/106140.pdf

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Country Brief: Niger*. World Bank.

⁶ *At A Glance: Niger*. (2010, March 2). United Nations Children's Fund. Retrieved from UNICEF: http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/niger_statistics.html

⁷ *Niger*. CIA World Factbook.

In 2005, Niger received 100 percent multilateral debt relief from the IMF, freeing up funds for socioeconomic investments.⁸

Socioeconomic indicators ⁹	
Population (millions)	14.7
GNI per capita, PPP (current USD)	\$680
GDP (current USD) (billions)	\$5.4
GDP composition by sector (%)	Not Available
GDP growth rate (%)	11.2
Percent below poverty line (%)	63
Inflation (%)	7.6
GINI index	43.9
Adult literacy rate (%)	28.7
Life expectancy (years)	51
Child dependency ratio	104.7
Elderly dependency ratio	4.1
HIV prevalence (%)	0.8
Overseas development aid per capita (current USD)	\$38
Net official development assistance 2005 (USD Millions)	\$515
Remittances as % of GDP	1.9
2009 Human Development Index (HDI) Ranking	182/182

2. Vulnerability analysis

2.1 External shocks

Although Niger's economy has largely been spared from the global economic crisis, and although it saw dramatic GDP growth in 2008 thanks to an excellent agricultural harvest and significant non-agricultural growth, economic development slowed in 2009 as agricultural production declined and international food and oil prices dropped.¹⁰ Food vulnerability is high, thanks in part to frequent and sudden rises in the market value for staple foods: "In 2008, global food price rises and local economic problems in neighboring northern Nigeria (leading to price rises of staple foods) put even greater pressure on the purchasing power of the poorest households in southern Niger".¹¹ For the past 5 years, the price of millet has been 20 percent higher than normal.¹²

⁸ *IMF to Extend 100 Percent Debt Relief to Niger Under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative*. (2005, December 23). Press Release No. 05/300, International Monetary Fund. Retrieved from IMF: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2005/pr05300.htm>

⁹ Data drawn from: *World Development Indicators* (2009). Retrieved from World Bank: <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators>. *Human Development Report 2009* (2009). Retrieved from the United Nations Development Programme: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2009/>

¹⁰ *Statement at the Conclusion of an IMF Staff Mission to Niger*. (2009, September 4). Press Release No. 09/296, International Monetary Fund. Retrieved from IMF: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2009/pr09296.htm>

Desertification, droughts, and pests all negatively impact the agricultural sector. In 2005, a drought and locust infestation led as many as 2.5 million Nigeriens to suffer food shortages.¹³ Desertification is a troublesome trend in the Sahel region and is decreasing the already limited available arable land.

2.2 HIV/AIDS

Niger has one of the lowest infection rates on the continent. 2008 estimates put the number of HIV positive Nigeriens at 60,000, or 0.8 percent of the total population.¹⁴ The Government of Niger has coordinated educational campaigns around sexual activity and condom use to stem HIV infection. However, condom use remains low by international standards.¹⁵

2.3 Foreign aid and remittances

Foreign direct investment comprises 8 percent of Niger's GDP.¹⁶ Official remittances in 2005 totalled some \$60 million USD, according to the World Bank, with undocumented remittances to Niger believed to be even higher. The remittances are mainly from Libya.¹⁷

3. Monitoring and evaluation

The Nigerien Network of Monitoring and Evaluation (ReNSE) is an informal group of monitoring and evaluation professionals. Its aim is to foster a sustainable national process of capacity-building in monitoring and evaluation through the setting-up of a forum that will contribute to the definition of standards, methodologies and professional practices in Niger. The members of the network have also adopted more specific objectives. The creation of this network in August 1999 is part of an African process aiming at the creation national M&E networks, as well as part of a global effort to constitute a world community for monitoring and evaluation.¹⁸

¹¹ *How Cash Transfers can Improve the Nutrition of the Poorest Children: Evaluation of a pilot safety net project in southern Niger*. (2009). Retrieved from Save the Children UK: http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/docs/Niger_Cash_Transfers_4th.pdf

¹² Ibid.

¹³ *Niger*. CIA World Factbook.

¹⁴ *Epidemiological Fact Sheet on HIV and AIDS: Niger – 2008 Update*. (2008, September). World Health Organization, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and United Nations Children's Fund. Retrieved from World Health Organization: http://apps.who.int/globalatlas/predefinedReports/EFS2008/full/EFS2008_NE.pdf

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ *The Implications of the Global Financial Crisis for Low-Income Countries*. (2009, March). Retrieved from International Monetary Fund: www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/books/2009/globalfin/globalfin.pdf

¹⁷ *Niger: Migration Benefits Still Seen to Outweigh Risks*. (2007, August 20). Retrieved from IRIN Humanitarian News and Analysis: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=73822>

¹⁸ *The Nigerien Monitoring and Evaluation Network*. (2006, April 5). Retrieved from ReNSE: <http://www.pnud.ne/RENSE/HOMEUK.HTML>

4. Social assistance programmes overview¹⁹

*All currency conversions are based on 17th February 2010 Rates.

- 1 XOF = 0.00204 USD
- 1 EUR = 1.369 USD
- 1 GBP = 1.57161 USD.²⁰

	Programme name	Social insurance system for Old Age, Disability, and Survivors ²¹
Programme #1: social insurance	Programme components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Old-age pension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amount: 20% of the insured's average covered earnings in the last 3 or 5 years (whichever amount is greater), plus 1.33% of average covered earnings for each 12-month period of coverage exceeding 180 months, up to 80%. ○ Minimum pension amount: 60% of the legal minimum wage, which is 28,847 CFA francs (\$60.02 USD) per month. ○ Paid quarterly. ▪ Old-age settlement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amount: A lump sum is paid equal to 1 month of the insured's average covered earnings in the last 3 or 5 years (whichever is higher) for each year of coverage. ○ Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted by decree according to changes in the cost of living and the legal minimum wage, depending on the financial resources of the system. ▪ Disability pension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The pension is equal to 20% of the insured's average covered earnings in the last 3 or 5 years (whichever amount is greater), plus 1.33% of average covered earnings for every 12-month period of coverage exceeding 180 months, up to 80%. A 6-month coverage period is credited for each year that a claim is made before the normal retirement age. ○ Minimum pension amount: 60% of the legal minimum wage. ○ Constant-attendance supplement: 50% of the disability pension is paid. ○ The disability pension ceases at normal retirement age and is replaced by an old-age pension of the same value. ○ Recipient may be required to undergo a medical examination by a doctor approved or designated by the National Social Security Fund every 6 months in the first 2 years; thereafter, once a year. ○ Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted by decree according to changes in the cost of living and the legal minimum wage, depending on the financial resources of the system. ▪ Survivor pension

¹⁹ US Government: U.S. Social Security Administration, Office of Retirement and Disability Policy. *Social Security Programs Throughout the World: Africa, 2009*. "Niger." <http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/progdesc/ssptw/2008-2009/africa/niger.html>

²⁰ *Currency Converter*. (n.d.). Retrieved from OANDA: <http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>

²¹ Table text from International Social Security Association. (2009, August). *Social Security Programs Throughout the World: Africa, 2009*. Retrieved from International Social Security Association: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/progdesc/ssptw/2008-2009/africa/ssptw09africa.pdf>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An eligible widow(er) receives 50% of the deceased's pension. If there is more than one widow, the pension is split equally. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Orphan's pension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Each eligible orphan receives 25% of the deceased's pension; 40% for each full orphan. ▪ Survivor settlement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A lump sum is paid equal to 1 month of the pension the deceased would have been entitled to with at least 180 months of coverage for each 6-month period of coverage. ○ If there is more than one widow, the allowance is split equally. ○ Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted by decree according to changes in the cost of living and the legal minimum wage, depending on the financial resources of the system.
	Programme coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employed persons, technical students, and apprentices. ▪ Voluntary coverage for persons previously insured for at least 6 consecutive months. ▪ Exclusions: Self-employed persons. ▪ Special system for civil servants.
	Beneficiary determination process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Old-age pension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Qualifying age is 60 (age 58 for covered public-sector workers, age 55 if prematurely aged) and registered with the National Social Security Fund for at least 20 years with at least 60 months of coverage in the last 10 years. ○ Retirement from employment is necessary. ○ The pension is payable abroad only under reciprocal agreement. ▪ Old-age settlement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Qualifying age is 60 (age 58 for covered public-sector workers, age 55 if prematurely aged) and does not meet the qualifying conditions for the old-age pension. ▪ Disability pension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The insured must be assessed with a loss of earning capacity of at least 66.7%, have been registered with the National Social Security Fund for at least 5 years, and have at least 6 months of coverage in the 12 months before the disability began. ○ The disability must be the result of an accident. ○ Constant-attendance supplement: Paid if the insured requires the constant attendance of others to perform daily functions. ▪ Survivor pension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The deceased met the qualifying conditions for the old-age pension or disability pension, was a pensioner at the time of death, or had at least 180 months of coverage. ○ Eligible survivors are a widow or a dependent, disabled widower who was married to the deceased at least a year before the insured's date of death and orphans younger than age 14 (age 18 if an apprentice, age 21 if a student or disabled). ○ The widow(er)'s pension ceases on remarriage. ○ An orphan receiving the pension may not receive family allowances.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Survivor settlement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The deceased did not meet the qualifying conditions for a disability pension and had fewer than 180 months of coverage. ○ The survivor settlement can be paid with family allowances.
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insured person: 1.6% of covered earnings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The minimum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes are equal to the legal minimum wage. ▪ Employer: 2.4% of covered payroll. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The minimum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes are equal to the legal minimum wage. ○ Contributions are paid monthly by employers with 20 or more employees or quarterly by employers with 1 to 19 employees. ▪ Government: None. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contributes as an employer for public-sector employees who are not civil servants.
	Legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First and current law: 1967 (old age, disability, and survivors), with 1989, 1998, and 2008 amendments.
	Administrative framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Public Administration and Labour provides general supervision. ▪ Managed by a tripartite council and a director. ▪ National Social Security Fund administrators.

Programme # 2: social insurance	Programme name	Maternity benefits²²
	Programme components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amount: equal to 100% of the insured's last earnings (the employer pays 50% of the benefit). ▪ Duration: The benefit is paid for 6 weeks before and 8 weeks after the expected date of childbirth; may be extended for up to 3 weeks in the event of complications arising from pregnancy or childbirth. ▪ Further components: Working women are reimbursed for the cost of medical care during pregnancy and childbirth. (The labour code requires employers to provide certain medical services.)
	Programme coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employed women. ▪ Exclusions: Self-employed women.
	Beneficiary determination process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The insured must have worked for the current employer for at least 2 years.
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employer: 11% of covered payroll.
	Legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First law: 1952. ▪ Current law: 1965 (family and maternity benefits), with 1969 amendment.
	Administrative framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Ministry of Public Administration and Labour provides general supervision. ▪ Managed by a tripartite council and a director, the National Social Security Fund administers the programme.

²² Table text from International Social Security Association. (2009).

Programme# 3: social insurance	Programme name	Work Injury ²³
	Programme components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Covers accidents that occur while commuting to and from work. ▪ Temporary Disability Benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The daily benefit is equal to 50% of the insured's average daily earnings in the month before the disability began for the first 28 days; thereafter, 66.7%. ○ The benefit is paid from the day after the disability began until full recovery or certification of permanent disability. ▪ Permanent disability pension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the insured is assessed with a total disability, the monthly pension is equal to 100% of the insured's average monthly earnings in the last 12 months. ○ The minimum annual earnings for benefit calculation purposes are 476,300 CFA francs (\$991.02 USD). ○ The maximum annual earnings for benefit calculation purposes are 5,874,400 CFA francs (\$ 12,222.62 USD). ▪ Constant-attendance supplement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the insured requires the constant attendance of others to perform daily functions, 40% of the insured's pension is paid. ▪ Partial disability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For an assessed degree of disability greater than 10%, the pension is equal to the insured's average monthly earnings in the last 12 months multiplied by 0.5 times the assessed degree of disability for the portion of disability between 10% and 50% and by 1.5 times the assessed degree of disability for the portion of disability greater than 50%. ○ If assessed degree of disability is less than 10%, lump sum is paid. ○ The partial disability pension is paid monthly, quarterly, or annually depending on its value. ○ The pension may be partially converted to a lump sum after receiving the pension for 5 to 7 years, subject to conditions. ○ The insured may be required to undergo a medical examination by a doctor approved or designated by the National Social Security Fund every 6 months in the first 2 years; thereafter, once a year. ▪ Benefit adjustment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Benefits are adjusted according to changes in the legal minimum wage. ▪ Workers' Medical Benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Benefits include medical and surgical care, hospitalization, medicines, appliances, transportation and rehabilitation. ▪ Survivor pension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The widow(er)'s pension is equal to 30% of the deceased's earnings used to calculate the disability pension. ○ If there is more than one widow, the pension is split equally. ○ The pension for a widow(er) without dependent children ceases on remarriage and a settlement is paid.

²³ Table text from International Social Security Association. (2009).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remarriage allowance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A lump sum is paid equal to 3 years of pension. ▪ Orphan's pension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The pension is equal to 15% of the deceased's earnings used to calculate the disability pension for each of the first two orphans younger than age 14 (age 18 if an apprentice, age 21 if a student or disabled); 10% for each additional orphan; 20% for each full orphan. ▪ Dependent parent's and grandparent's pension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Each dependent parent and grandparent receives 10% of the deceased's earnings used to calculate the disability pension, up to 30%. ○ All survivor benefits combined must not exceed 85% of the deceased's earnings used for calculating the disability pension; otherwise, the pensions are reduced proportionately. ○ All pensions are paid quarterly. ▪ Funeral grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A lump sum is paid equal to 15 days of the deceased's earnings used to calculate the disability pension. ○ Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted according to the changes in the legal minimum wage.
	Programme coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employed persons, including self-employed persons, technical students, apprentices, members of production cooperatives, non-salaried managers of cooperatives and their assistants, managers and directors of commercial enterprises, and prisoners working in prison workshops. ▪ Voluntary coverage for all work injury benefits is possible, except for the temporary disability benefit.
	Beneficiary determination process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work Injury: There is no minimum qualifying period. ▪ Disability must be assessed by a medical board.
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Self-employed person <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2% of covered annual earnings. ○ The minimum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes are equal to the legal minimum wage multiplied by 1.4. ○ The legal minimum monthly wage is 28,847 CFA francs (\$60.02 USD). ○ The maximum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes are 250,000 CFA francs (\$520.15 USD). ▪ Employer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2% of covered payroll. ○ The minimum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes are equal to the legal minimum wage. ○ Contributions are paid monthly by employers with 20 or more employees or quarterly by employers with 1 to 19 employees.
	Legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First law: 1961. ▪ Current law: 1965 (work injury benefits), with 1967 amendment.
	Administrative framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Public Administration and Labour provides general supervision. ▪ Managed by a tripartite council and a director, the National Social Security Fund administers the programme

Programme# 4: unconditional cash transfer	Programme name	Family Allowances ²⁴
	Programme components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Family allowance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1,000 CFA francs (\$2.08 USD) a month per child. ○ Paid quarterly. ▪ Prenatal allowance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1,000 CFA francs (\$2.08 USD) a month for 9 months. ○ Paid in three quarterly installments. ▪ Maternity allowance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A lump sum of 10,000 CFA francs (\$20.80 USD). ○ Paid in three installments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5,000 CFA francs (\$10.40 USD) at childbirth, ▪ 2,500 CFA francs (\$5.20 USD) when the child is 6 months old, ▪ 2,500 CFA francs (\$5.20 USD) when the child is 12 months old. ▪ Birth allowance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A lump sum of 10,000 CFA francs (\$20.80 USD) is paid to the insured for each of the first three births. ▪ Some health and welfare services are also provided to mothers and children.
	Programme coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employees and social insurance beneficiaries with one or more children. ▪ Exclusions: Self-employed persons. ▪ Special system for civil servants.
	Beneficiary determination process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Family allowances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The child must be between 1 and 14 years (up to age 18 if an apprentice, age 21 if a student or disabled). ○ The parent must have at least 6 consecutive months of covered employment and be currently working at least 18 days or 120 hours a month or be the widow(er) of a beneficiary. ○ An unemployed parent may receive allowances for up to 6 months after employment ceases. ○ The child must not receive an orphan's pension. ○ If a parent is also eligible to receive family allowances from the special system for civil servants, only the higher benefit award is paid. ▪ Prenatal allowance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The mother and child must undergo three prescribed medical examinations. ○ The allowance is paid to an insured woman or to the wife of an insured man. ▪ Maternity allowance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The mother and child must undergo prescribed medical examinations. ▪ Birth allowance

²⁴ Table text from International Social Security Association. (2009).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Paid for the birth of the insured's first three children.
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 11% of covered payroll. ○ The employer contributions also finance maternity benefits under Sickness and Maternity, above. ○ The minimum monthly earnings for contribution calculation purposes are equal to the legal minimum wage. ○ Contributions are paid monthly by employers with 20 or more employees or quarterly by employers with 1 to 19 employees.
	Legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First law: 1955. ▪ Current law: 1965 (family and maternity benefits), with 1969 amendment.
	Administrative framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Public Administration and Labour provides general supervision. ▪ Managed by a tripartite council and a director, the National Social Security Fund administers the programme.

Programme# 5: conditional cash transfer	Programme name	Save the Children Cash Transfer²⁵
	Programme overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Every year, at least 200,000 children under the age of 5 are treated for acute malnutrition in Niger. This programme aims to combat malnutrition and enhance child wellness.
	Programme components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distributed: during the "hunger gap" (the lean season). ▪ Benefit: 60,000 CFA francs (\$124.81 USD) in three installments of 20,000 CFA francs each (\$41.61 USD) per household, regardless of household size. (average household size of the targeted population is seven). ▪ Recipients: Cash distributed to women. ▪ Conditionality: beneficiary households were required to take part in awareness sessions on malnutrition and other public health activities (including setting up community health committees).
	Programme coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beneficiaries: 1,500 of the poorest households in Tessaoua district, Maradi region, Niger. ▪ Coverage: Reached approximately 1/3 of the population in the district.
	Beneficiary determination process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Targeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Very poor households (based on data from a Household Economy Approach (HEA) analysis and wealth ranking), ○ Households with widows, ○ Households with people with disabilities. ▪ Priority was given to mothers and caregivers of children under five. ▪ Cash transfers were only distributed in areas declared by the government as severely food insecure
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid department
	Monitoring and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 100 households were monitored using HEA methodology at three points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ before the project started (baseline),

²⁵ Table drawn from *How Cash Transfers can Improve the Nutrition of the Poorest Children: Evaluation of a pilot safety net project in southern Niger*. (2009). Save the Children UK.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a month after the first cash distribution (at the peak of the hunger gap), and ○ a month after the third distribution (evaluation). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring included anthropometric follow-up of children under five, before the project and after each distribution.
	Programme barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Difficulty targeting.
	Socioeconomic impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased income: income in beneficiary households increased by about 33%. ▪ Decreased reliance on volatile sources of income: beneficiary households gave up or reduced their reliance on certain sources of income, such as credit, migration or sale of animals, which were generally used as coping mechanisms. ▪ Increased agricultural production: beneficiary households chose to spend more time in their own fields, which (combined with good rainfall) resulted in a significant increase in their agricultural production – approximately 50% more than they produced before receiving the transfer, leading to long-term gains in food security. ▪ Better nutrition: Beneficiary households were able to cover an average of 99% of their minimum caloric energy needs, up from an 84% average before the transfer. Diets also improved. ▪ Income generating activities: Beneficiaries restarted income-generating activities. ▪ Increased local wage rate.

Programme# 6: unconditional cash transfer	Programme name	Concern Worldwide Cash Transfer²⁶
	Programme overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Humanitarian organisation Concern Worldwide launched an innovative programme which uses mobile phones and text messages to distribute cash to the most vulnerable women in 60 villages.
	Programme objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide aid to those suffering from malnutrition and starvation.
	Programme components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mobile cash transfers: each recipient receives a code by text message, which she can redeem for cash at mobile dispensing agents operated by telecommunications service provider ZAIN.
	Programme coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 13,000 women
	Administrative framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Most beneficiaries had no form of ID, so project staff had to photograph each beneficiary and produce a photo ID – an administratively intensive task.
	Monitoring and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concern is also using manual cash transfers, side-by-side with the mobile transfers, in a research effort to document the effectiveness of each method.

²⁶ Table drawn from *Can Text Messages Save Lives in Niger?* (2010, May 14). Retrieved from Concern Worldwide: <http://blogs.concernusa.org/2010/05/14/food-crisis-niger/#more-1118>