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Law Enforcement Training for Capacity Building

NIGER

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Country Information Package

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LET4CAP, co-funded by the Internal Security Fund of the European Union, aims to contribute to more *consistent* and *efficient* assistance in law enforcement capacity building to third countries. The Project consists in the design and provision of training interventions drawn on the experience of the partners and fine-tuned after a piloting and consolidation phase.

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1. Country Profile

1.1 Country in Brief



Source: Encyclopædia Britannica

Formal Name: Republic of Niger

Population: 19,245,344

Term for Citizens: Nigériens

Area (sq km): 1,267,000

Capital City: Niamey

Independence: 3 August 1960, from France

1.2 Modern and Contemporary History of Niger

Pre-history

It is thought that already 60,000 years ago humans inhabited what has since become the desolate Sahara Desert of northern Niger. On what was at that time fertile grasslands, from at least 7,000 BCE there was pastoralism, herding of sheep and goats, large settlements and pottery. As the Sahara dried, after 2,000 BCE, northern Niger became a desert, with settlements clinging to a few trade routes and scattered oases and most people living along what is now the southern border with Nigeria and the South-west of the country.

Ancient history

By at least the 5th century BCE, Carthage and Egypt had become markets for West African gold, ivory and slaves, traded with salt, cloth, beads and metal goods. What is now Niger was on the route between the empires of the Sahel and the Mediterranean basin. Trade continued into Roman times, being conducted through middlemen who inhabited the area. The earliest evidence for domesticated camels in the region dates back to the 3rd century AD. Used by the Berber people, they enabled more regular contact across the entire width of the Sahara, but regular trade routes did not develop until the beginnings of the Islamic conversion of West Africa in the 7th and 8th centuries. In particular, two main trade routes developed. The first of them ran through the western desert from modern Morocco to the Niger Bend while the second connected modern Tunisia and the Lake Chad area, clinging to a network of local oases. A third route from the Niger Bend to Egypt was abandoned in the 10th century due to its dangers. Niger was an important economic crossroads, and the empires of Songhai, Mali, Gao, Kanem-Bornu and the Dendi kingdom, as well as a number of Hausa states, claimed control over portions of the area. In the 14th century the Tuareg-controlled kingdom of Takedda, west of the Aïr Massif, rose to prominence in the control of long-distance trade, notably owing to the importance of its mines of copper, used at that time as a currency throughout western Africa. Takedda was succeeded at an unknown date by the sultanate of Agadez. Meanwhile, for many centuries the south-eastern third of present-day Niger constituted one of the most important provinces of the Kanuri empire of Bornu. The might of Bornu was based on the control of a number of salt-producing sites and of long-distance trade, notably along the string of oases between Lake Chad and the Fezzan via Kowar.

The great drought of about 1735–56—the prelude to the present dry cycle, which set in about 1880—had an adverse effect upon the rural communities of the area; this may explain why the nomadic Tuareg were able to extend their control over a fair portion of the sedentary south. The Tuareg formed large confederations, pushing southward, siding with various Hausa states and clashing with the Fulani Empire of Sokoto, which had gained control of much of the Hausa territory in the late 18th century. At the time of the colonial conquest, the disparate regions that constitute present-day Niger may be best described as an assemblage of peripheral borderlands. As borderlands,

however, these regions had played a significant role as zones of refuge: the west after 1591 and the Moroccan conquest of the Songhai empire; and the Hausa region much later, after the 1804 Fulani jihad in central Hausaland (i.e., present-day northern Nigeria). In both cases the refugees were people who had lost in the military conflicts and religious struggles of their respective homelands.

Colonisation

The French conquest began only in 1899, with the notorious expedition led by French Captains Paul Voulet and Charles-Paul-Louis Chanoine, authors of various episodes of extreme violence, nearly ending in a disaster due to the local population's determined resistance. It was only in 1922, after the severe drought and famine of 1913–15 and the Tuareg uprising of 1916–17, that the power of the Tuareg tribes had been broken and the French felt safe enough to establish a regular administration under civilian control. France administered her West African colonies through a governor general at Dakar, Senegal, and governors in the individual territories, including Niger. Peace in French West Africa meant, among other things, the rapid spread of Islam, a steep demographic increase and, although exclusively among the Hausa, the extension of cash crop cultivation. The Songhai-Zarma, another ethnic group, engaged themselves as seasonal labourers in the coastal regions.

After the 1946 reforms, France's African subjects were granted a limited form of French citizenship and Niger, along with the other colonies (renamed "overseas territories") in black Africa, was represented in the French parliament. Consultative-legislative assemblies were also set up locally. These reforms secured the ascent of a tiny new elite, the so-called "*évolués*", those who had been trained in French schools. Many were descendants of former slaves, and most were Songhai-Zarma, who had proved to be far more open to European influence than the Hausa. A further revision in the organisation of overseas territories occurred with the passage of the Overseas Reform Act (Loi Cadre) of 23 July 1956, followed by re-organisational measures enacted by the French Parliament early in 1957. In addition to removing voting inequalities, these laws provided for the creation of governmental organs, assuring individual territories a measure of self-government over internal matters such as education, health, and infrastructure.

After the establishment of the Fifth French Republic on 4 October 1958, the territories of French West Africa and French Equatorial Africa were given the right to hold a referendum on their membership in the French Community, a modified form of the French Union which allowed some limited self-government and was viewed as a path to eventual independence. The referendum and the following elections for the Nigerien territorial assembly saw two political blocks vying for victory: the Nigerien Progressive Party (PPN), leading the Union for the Franco-African Community (UCFA) and headed by PPN leader and deputy-speaker of the Assembly Hamani Diori, and the African Socialist Movement (known as Sawaba – "independence" – in the Hausa language), led by the majority

leader of the Assembly, Djibo Bakary. The UCFA, advocating against complete independence, defeated Sawaba. On 18 December Niger declared itself a republic within the French Community and the Territorial Assembly became the Constituent Assembly. This date is celebrated as the Republic Day, the national holiday of Niger. Diori became president of the provisional government and then Prime Minister of Niger in 1959. Having organised a powerful coalition of Hausa, Fula and Djerma leaders in support of Niger's "Yes" vote in the referendum, Diori gained French favour and support while consolidating his rule, banning all political parties but the PPN. Sawaba leaders fled into exile, and member parties of the UCFA were folded into the PPN.

Independence and Diori's Rule

On 11 July 1960 France agreed to concede full independence to Niger. Independence was declared on 3 August 1960 under the leadership of Prime Minister Diori. Subsequently, in November 1960 Diori was elected to the new position of President of Niger by the National Assembly. During his presidency, Diori's government favoured the maintenance of traditional social structures and the retention of close economic ties with France. He was re-elected unopposed in 1965 and 1970. Diori gained worldwide respect for his role as a spokesman for African affairs and as a popular arbitrator in conflicts involving other African nations. Domestically, however, his administration was considered rife with corruption, and the government was unable to implement reforms or to alleviate the widespread famine brought on by the Sahelian drought of the early 1970s. Increasingly criticised at home for his negligence in domestic matters, Diori put down a coup in 1963 and narrowly escaped assassination in 1965. Faced with an attempted military coup and attacks by members of Sawaba, he used French advisers and troops to counter threats to his rule, despite students' and unions' protests against what they perceived as French neo-colonialism.

The PPN itself was weakened and remained little more than a platform for a handful of leaders grouped around Diori. The party did not hold congresses and its election lists were filled with traditional leaders from the various ethnic groups. Elected officials were given only ceremonial power, while cabinets counted only Djerma, Songhai and Maouri leaders, neglecting the Hausa and Fula groups. Diori's grip on power was weakened, however, by the 1970s famine. Widespread civil disorder followed allegations that some government ministers were misappropriating stocks of food aid and Diori himself was accused of consolidating power. On 15 April 1974, Lieutenant Colonel Seyni Kountché led a military coup that ended Diori's rule. Diori was imprisoned until 1980 and remained under house arrest.

The Military Rule

The following government was threatened by further coup attempts. Although slightly increasing prosperity, the military government allowed little free expression and engaged in arbitrary imprisonment and killing. Upon Kountché's death in 1987, he was succeeded by his Chief of Staff and cousin, Colonel Ali Saibou. Saibou liberalised some of Niger's laws and policies, and promulgated a new constitution. He released

political prisoners, including Diori and Djibo Bakary. However, President Saibou's efforts to control political reforms failed in the face of unions' and students' demands to institute a multi-party democratic system. New political parties and civic associations were born since the end of 1990 and a National Conference was convened in July 1991 to prepare the way for the adoption of a new constitution and the holding of free and fair elections, developing consensus on the modalities of a transitional government.

The First Democratic Transition

A transitional government was installed from November 1991 to April 1993. Economy somewhat deteriorated over the course of the transition, while a constitutional referendum was successfully conducted and key legislation was adopted. Freedom of the press increased with the appearance of several new independent newspapers. In 1993, Mahamane Ousmane, the Democratic and Social Convention (CDS) party candidate, won the presidential election with the support of a coalition of parties. The agreement between the parties fell apart in 1994 leading to governmental paralysis as the CDS on its own no longer had a majority in the assembly. Ousmane dissolved the legislature and called new legislative elections which saw the victory of the National Movement for the Development of Society (MNSD) party, requesting the appointment of Hama Amadou of the MNSD as prime minister. Meanwhile, the government signed peace accords in April 1995 with rebelling Tuareg and Toubou groups. The government agreed to absorb some former rebels in the military and, with French assistance, help others return to a productive civilian life. The paralysis of the government between the President and the Prime Minister, however, gave Colonel Ibrahim Baré Maïnassara a justification to overthrow the Third Republic and depose the first democratically elected president of Niger, on 27 January 1996. While leading a military authority that ran the government.

Baré enlisted specialists to draft a new constitution; he then organised a presidential election in June 1996, running against four other candidates, including Ousmane. Non-competitive conditions and a boycott by opposition parties allowed him to win both the presidential election and the legislative elections in November 1996. Baré imposed a new military regime, with countless violations of basic civil liberties by the regime: opposition leaders were imprisoned; journalists arrested, beaten, and deported by an unofficial militia composed of police and military; independent media offices were looted and burned with impunity.

The Second Democratisation

In April 1999 Baré was assassinated in a coup led by Major Daouda Malam Wanké, who established a transitional National Reconciliation Council to oversee the drafting of a constitution for the Nigerien Fifth Republic, with a French-style semi-presidential system. After an election that international observers found to be generally free and fair, the Nigerien population approved the new constitution in July 1999. Legislative and presidential elections were held in October and November 1999. Heading a MNSD/CDS coalition, Mahamadou Tandja won the presidency. The Fifth Republic (2000–2009) marked a period of comparative stability. Tandja's government

was the first since 1992 to ensure that the public sector and the military received regular payment. In doing so, it precluded another vicious cycle of general strikes being launched by the trade unions, which had crippled Niger's economy throughout the 1990s and had been a major source of political instability. Until August 2009, the work of political institutions progressed relatively smoothly despite the potential for conflict in the semi-presidential system. In July 2004, Niger held municipal elections nationwide as part of its decentralisation process. The ruling MNSD party won more positions than any other political party, but opposition parties made significant gains. In November and December 2004 Niger held again presidential and legislative elections, with Mahamadou Tandja elected to his second five-year presidential term with 65% of the vote in a generally free and fair election. In the legislative elections the MNSD, the CDS, the Rally for Social Democracy (RSD), the Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP), the Nigerien Alliance for Democracy and Progress (ANDP) and the Social Party for Nigerien Democracy (PSDN) backing Tandja in coalition, won 88 of the 113 seats in the National Assembly.

A second Tuareg insurgency began in 2007 when a previously unknown group, the *Mouvement des Nigériens pour la Justice* (MNJ), emerged. The predominantly Tuareg group issued a number of demands, mainly related to development in the north. It attacked military and other facilities and laid landmines in the north. The resulting insecurity devastated Niger's tourist industry and deterred investment in mining and oil. Algeria helped negotiate an August 2008 peace deal, which was broken by a rebel faction in December, crushed by the Malian military and wholesale defections of rebels to the government. Niger saw heavy fighting and disruption of Uranium production in the mountainous north, before a Libyan backed peace deal, aided by a factional split among the rebels, brought a negotiated ceasefire and amnesty in May 2009. The rebellion had a negative impact on freedom of speech and of the press in Niger. Journalists critical of the government's attitude and activities regarding the Tuareg or about alleged corrupt activities of government ministers were subject to arbitrary arrests and police violence.

On 26 May 2009, President Tandja dissolved parliament after the country's constitutional court ruled against plans to hold a referendum on whether to allow him a third term in office. According to the constitution, a new parliament was elected within three months. This kick-started a political struggle between Tandja, trying to extend his term-limited authority beyond 2009, and his opponents, who demanded that he step down at the end of his second term in December 2009. In response, the military took over the country and President Tandja was put in prison, charged with corruption. The military kept their promise to return the country to democratic civilian

rule. A constitutional referendum and national elections were held. The presidential election was held between January and March 2011, seeing Mahamadou Issoufou of the Nigerien Party for Democracy and Socialism elected president. The Issoufou government has to date respected the rule of law and pursued a strategy of inclusion, with former President Mahamadou Tandja even released from prison after charges of misappropriating public funds were dropped.

The Current Situation in Niger

Since 2012 thousands have fled into Niger from war in Mali. However, war reached Niger as well, when in May 2013 suicide bombers staged separate attacks on military barracks and a French-run uranium mining site in the north. The government blamed al-Qaeda-linked militants. In 2014 Niger and French nuclear energy group Areva agreed a new deal for mining uranium, involving an increase in royalties. In February 2015 the government, facing the Boko Haram crisis in its territory as well, agreed to contribute a regional force to fight the militants. In 2016 Boko Haram militants attacked the south-eastern town of Bosso, killing 30 soldiers; in that same year, the US confirmed that it was building a military base in the city of Agadez capable of deploying drones against militants. War kept plaguing Niger, with a state of emergency declared in March 2017 in the western areas bordering Mali. In April the military said it had killed 57 members of Boko Haram who had attacked a military position near Gueskerou, in the south-east. A new response to radical Islamic militants was set out as five West African countries, including Niger, launched in July a new regional force to confront radical Islamic militants in the Sahel region. In January 2018 a new development in the ever-unstable military situation of the region was produced, as Italy's parliament approved the deployment of up to 470 troops in Niger to combat migration and the trafficking of people towards Europe.

In the last few years growth has been stable and inflation low, but Niger continues to be plagued by extreme poverty, unsustainable and inefficient public spending, widespread illiteracy and a fast-growing population, and remains dependent on uranium and oil revenues. Political tensions surrounded the figure of opposition leader Hama Amadou, arrested on his return to the country years after fleeing to avoid child-trafficking charges. He was later approved as a candidate to the 2016 presidential polls, in which Mahamadou Issoufou was re-elected in a run-off election boycotted by Amadou's supporters. Eventually, a court sentenced Amadou to a year in prison for child smuggling, but he was not in court and denied the charges, describing them as politically motivated.

1.3 Geography

Location: Niger is located in Western Africa, South-East of Algeria. It is bordered by Algeria to the Northwest, Libya to the North-East, Chad to the East, Nigeria to the South, Benin to the Southwest and Burkina Faso and Mali to the West.

Area: Niger's total area is approximately 1.267 million square kilometres.

Land Boundaries: Niger is bordered by Algeria (951 km), Benin (277 km), Burkina Faso (622 km), Chad (1,196 km), Libya (342 km), Mali (838 km) and Nigeria (1,608 km). The total length of its borders is 5,834 km.

Topography: Most of Niger's territory consists predominantly of desert plains and sand dunes. It flattens into savannah plains in the South, suitable for livestock and limited agriculture, while hills are present in the North. Mean elevation is 434 ms, the lowest and

highest points being respectively the Niger river (200 ms) and the Idoukal-n-Taghes (2,022 ms).

Natural Resources: Niger's main natural resources are uranium, coal, iron ore, tin, phosphates, gold, molybdenum, gypsum, salt and petroleum.

Land Use: Most of Niger's territory consists of desert and agricultural lands, the latter accounting for 35.1% of the land; permanent crops occupy only 0.1% of the territory, arable land 12.3% and permanent pasture 22.7%. Only 1,000 sq. kilometres are irrigated.

Environmental Factors: Niger's most important environmental problems are overgrazing, soil erosion, deforestation, desertification and the threats to wildlife populations because of poaching and habitat destruction. The recurring droughts which hit the country are the most common natural hazard.

1.4 Territorial and Administrative Units

Niger is divided into 7 regions and one capital district, Niamey. Regions are further divided into departments and *communes*. *Cantons* and *groupements* cover all areas not included in communes. Nigerien departments number 36, while *communes*, *cantons* and *groupements* together are almost 500.

List of Nigerien administrative units:

- Agadez
- Diffa
- Dosso
- Maradi
- Niamey
- Tahoua
- Tillabéri
- Zinder



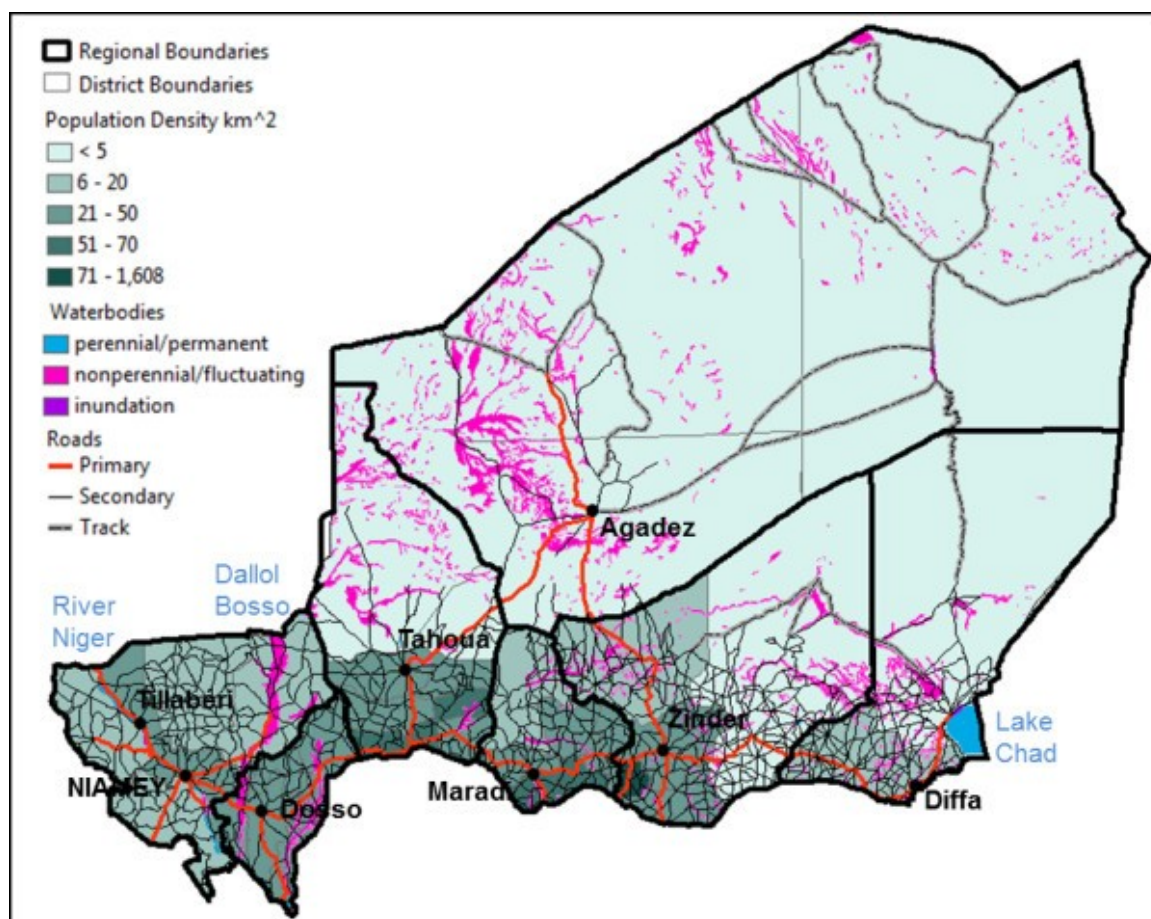
Source: Nations Online Project

1.5 Population

According to 2017 estimates, Niger has a population of 19,245,344, of which 19.3% live in urban areas. The population is not evenly distributed on the territory: most Nigeriens reside in the southernmost edge of the country. The country has the highest total fertility rate in the world (6.49 births per woman) and one of the highest population growth rates (3.19%). Because of large family sizes, children are inheriting smaller and smaller parcels of land. The dependence of most Nigeriens on subsistence farming on

increasingly small landholdings, coupled with declining rainfall and the resultant shrinkage of arable land, are all preventing food production from keeping up with population growth.

Life expectancy at birth is 57.3 years for females and 54.7 years for males. Birth rate is 44.2 births/1,000 population, and death rate is 11.8/1,000 population. Infant mortality rate is 81.1 deaths/1,000 live births.



Source: Blanford, Luo, Kumar and Maceachren (2012)

1.6 Ethnic Groups, Languages, Religion

Ethnic Groups

One of the central themes of the history of Niger is the interaction between the Tuareg (and also Tubu) nomads of the vast Saharan north and the sedentary farmers of the south – that is, the interaction between opposed yet complementary ways of life and civilisations. Among the sedentary the main ethnic groups are the Songhai-Zarma in the west, the Hausa in the centre, and the Kanuri in the east. The Hausa have always been the most numerous, constituting about half of the total population of Niger (53.1%). According to 2006 estimates, the Songhai-Zarma make up to 21.2 % of the population, Tuareg 11%, Fulani (Peul) 6.5%, Kanuri 5.9%, Gurma 0.8%, Arab 0.4% and Tubu 0.4%.

Languages

The most spoken languages are Hausa and Zarma. **Hausa** is the most important indigenous lingua franca in West and Central Africa, spoken as a first or second language by about 40–50 million people. The home territories of the Hausa people lie on both sides of the border between Niger, where about one-half of the population speaks Hausa as a first language, and Nigeria. Hausa are predominantly Muslim, and their history of long-

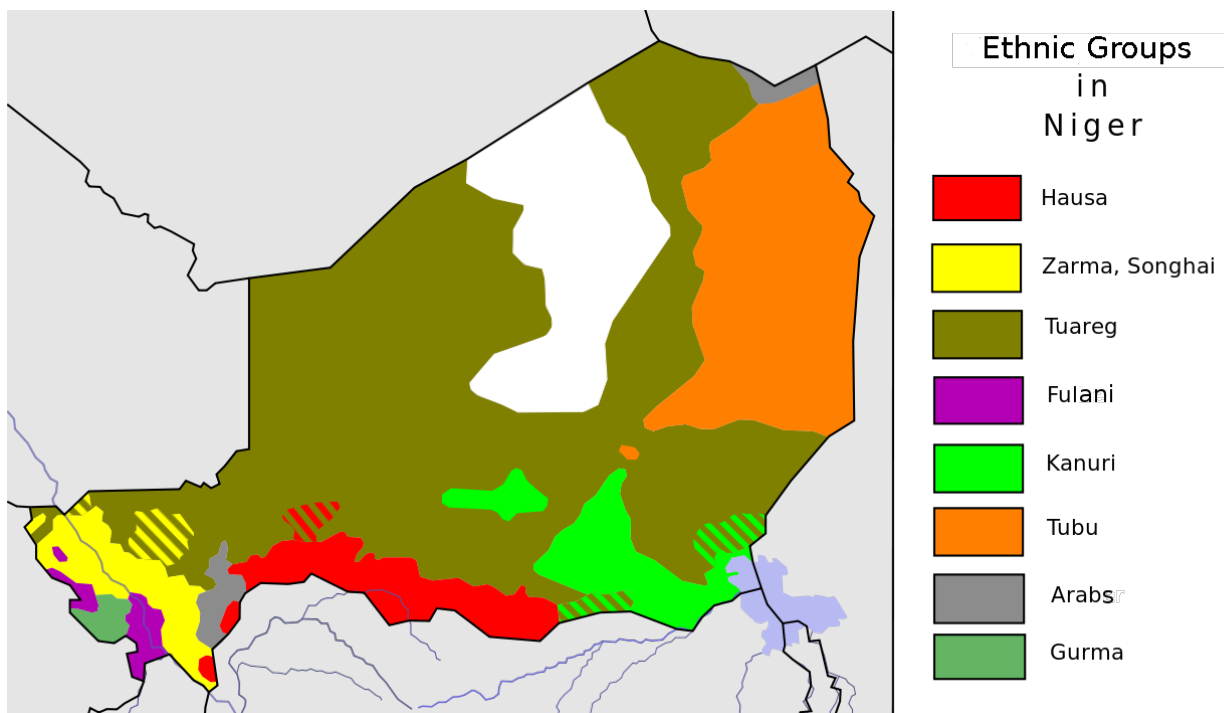
distance commerce and pilgrimages to the Holy Cities of Islam spread their language to almost all major cities in West, North, Central, and North-eastern Africa. Hausa is recognised as an indigenous national language in the constitution of Niger.

Zarma is one of the Songhay languages and easily the most widely spoken, with over 2 million speakers. It is the leading indigenous language of Southwestern Niger, the area where the Niger River flows and Niamey is located. After Hausa, Zarma is the second-most common language in the country and a Nigerien national language as well.

French, inherited from the colonial period, is the official language. It is spoken mainly as a second language by people who have received an education. Although educated Nigeriens still constitute a relatively small percentage of the population, French is the language used by the official administration (courts, government, etc.), the media and the business community.

Religion

The predominant religion in Niger, practised by most of the population, is Islam (80%). The remaining 20% are either Christians or animists.



Source: Taderass

1.7 Health

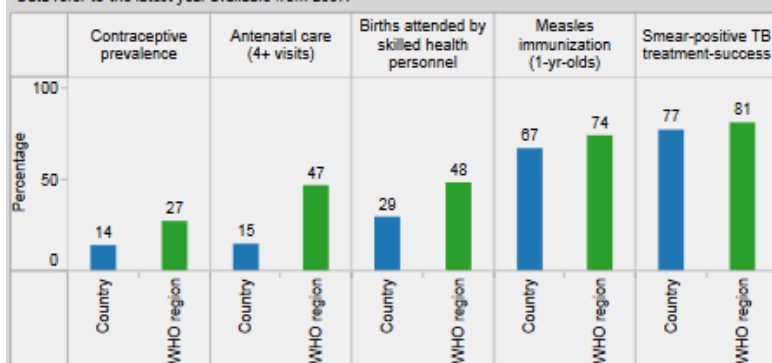
The Nigerien government's expenditure on health amounted in 2014 to 5.8% of GDP. The country has 0.02 physicians per 1,000 people and a 0.4% HIV/AIDS adult prevalence rate. The whole urban population has access to improved drinking water resources, while this is not true for 51.4% of the rural population. Improved sanitation facilities are accessible only to 37.9 and 4.6% of the

urban and rural population respectively, comprising 10.9% of the overall population.

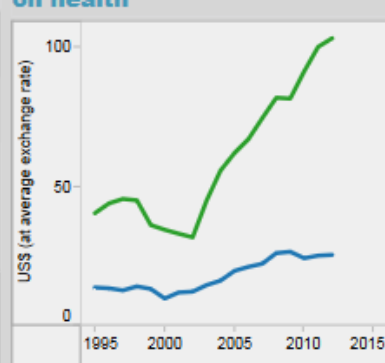
Various diseases are widespread and pose a serious threat to human health; among them, bacterial and protozoal diarrhoea, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, malaria, dengue fever, schistosomiasis, meningococcal meningitis and rabies.

Utilisation of health services*

*Data refer to the latest year available from 2007.

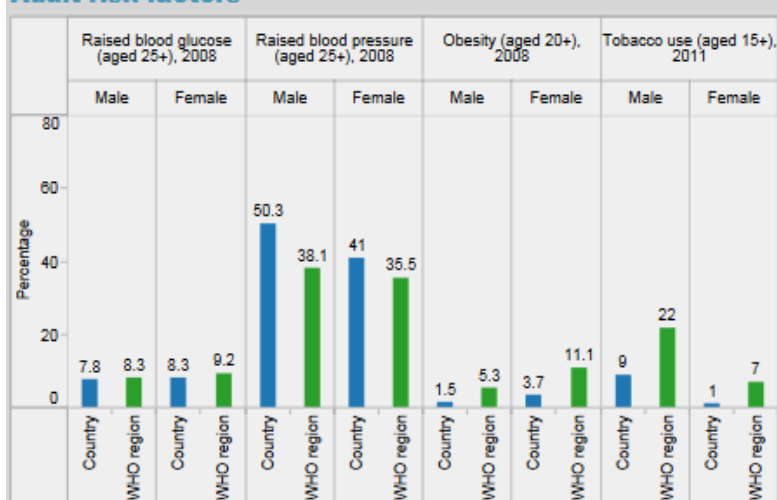


Per capita total expenditure on health

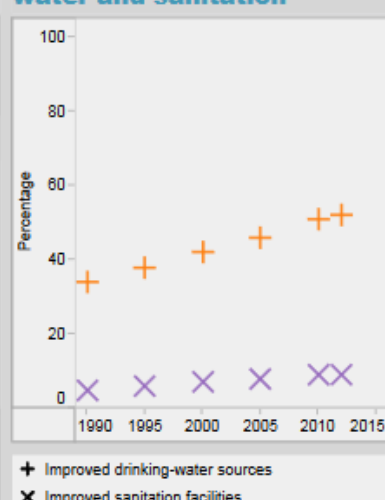


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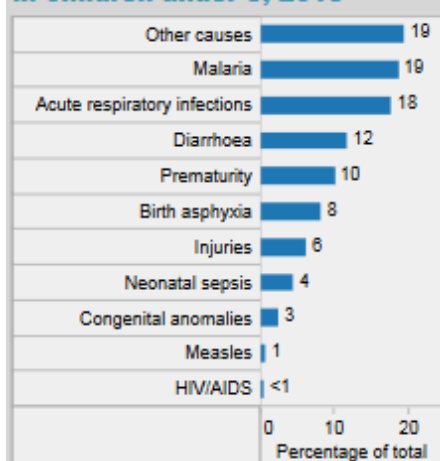
Adult risk factors



Population using improved water and sanitation



Distribution of causes of deaths in children under-5, 2013

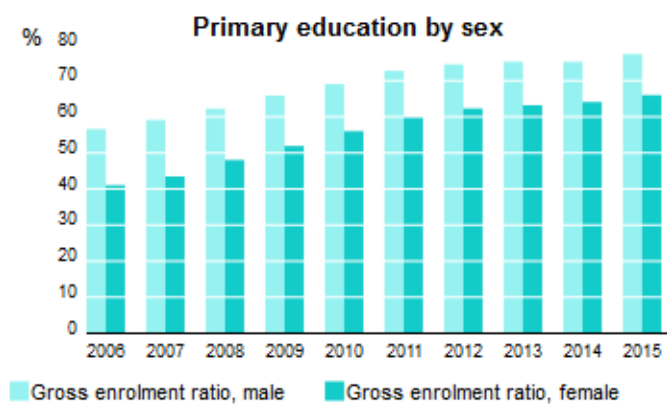


Source: WHO

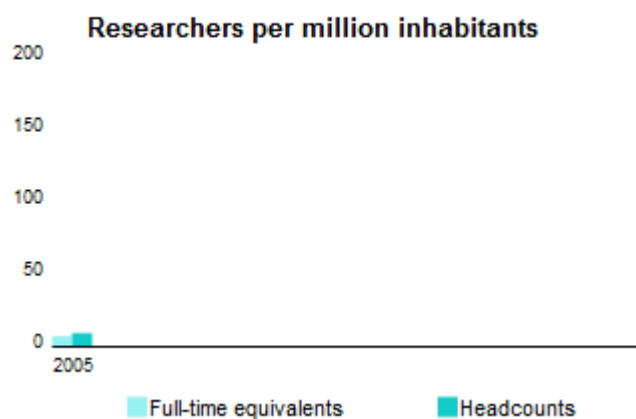
1.8 Education and Literacy

According to UNESCO figures, only 15.46 male and 8.94% female adults are literate in Niger. This percentage is somewhat higher among youths, ranging from 23.52% for males to 15.06% for females. The government expenditure on education amounts to around 6.02% of the GDP.

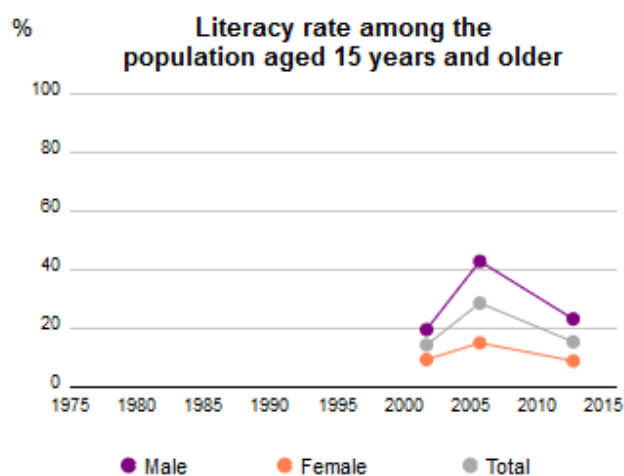
EDUCATION



SCIENCE



LITERACY



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics

1.9 Country Economy

Niger's economy is based largely on subsistence crops, livestock, and some of the world's largest uranium deposits. Drought cycles, desertification, population growth rate and drops in world demand for uranium often undercut an already marginal economy. Traditional subsistence farming, herding, small trading and informal markets dominate an economy that generates few formal sector jobs and produces little wealth for a country stably collocated among the last in the world in the HDI ranking. GDP per capita is 1,200 US\$. According to 2014 estimates, 45.7% of the population lives with less than 1.90 US\$ a day. Social safety nets are rudimentary and only cover employees of the formal sector (i.e. public sector workers and their dependents).

In recent years, Niger has experienced steady, yet unstable, economic growth. However, the average annual growth rate conceals substantial year-to-year fluctuations, due to the fact that output strength is driven by agricultural output and by uranium and oil exports. Both agricultural production and the export of mineral resources are driven by factors beyond the government's influence. Thus, while the economy's overall output might appear to be satisfactory, the factors influencing it are somewhat arbitrary and difficult for government to influence. Since 2011 public debt has increased due to efforts to scale-up public investment, particularly that related to infrastructure, as well as due to increased security spending. The government relies on foreign donor resources for a large portion of its fiscal budget. The economy in recent years has been hurt by terrorist activity and kidnappings near Nigerien uranium mines and by instability in Mali and in the Diffa region of the country; concerns about security have resulted in increased support from regional and international partners on defense issues.

Since the 1980s, Niger has tried to privatise several state-run companies. It divested itself of monopolies in water, electric power and telecommunications. The privatisation of other state monopolies has stalled, however, and there has been no significant progress over the last years; the oil-distribution company (SONIDEP) and the national electricity company (NIGELEC) still hold monopolies. An independent multisectoral regulatory body has been created to help ensure free and fair competition. For 30 years, the French government-

owned company AREVA held a virtual monopoly over Niger's uranium. Various foreign firms are competing in the nascent gold and oil sectors, but some businesses are turned off by a bureaucratic investment framework that remains outmoded and non-transparent.

Niger has been a member of the World Trade Organisation since 1996, although its participation in international trade is very limited with regard to both imports and exports. Niger also participates in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), whose membership entails a customs union marked by a considerable degree of de facto protectionism and state regulations. The Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) governs the banking system. The Nigerien bank sector is highly concentrated, as 90% of all deposits are held by just four banks, and the deposits-to-GDP ratio is one of the lowest in the West African region. The financial sector has not been negatively affected by the financial crisis because it has few links to the world economy. Although liquidity is high, access to credit is difficult because there is a general hesitancy to loan. Participation in banking is very low among the population and confined to the major cities.

Agriculture contributes approximately 25% of GDP and provides livelihood for 87% of the population, while economic growth, currently estimated at 5.2% for 2017, is largely driven by the secondary sector. Growth is projected to reach 5.4% in 2018 and then again stabilise at 5.2% in 2019 due to the performance of the oil and agricultural sectors. Agricultural performance is expected to rise as a result of good rainfall, as well of the 3N initiative, Nigériens Feed Nigériens, which promotes irrigation and livestock farming. However, security spending to fight Boko Haram and jihadists widened the 2017 budget deficit. Security spending accounted for 7.4% of GDP in 2017, up from 5.9% in 2016, but is likely to decline in 2018 and 2019. Niger's debt risk remains moderate. Niger shares its currency (Franc CFA) with other French-speaking West African States. The primary monetary policy aim of the Central Bank of West African States has been to ensure price stability, and despite the low inflation the Central Bank has left interest rates essentially unchanged.

2. Political and Security Context

2.1 The Constitution of Niger

The Republic of Niger has had seven constitutions, one national charter, and two substantial constitutional revisions since full independence in 1960. Three of these constitutions were, however, the same one, temporarily suspended and then newly implemented after revision. Constitutionally, Niger has always leaned towards a republican form with democratic institutions.

The First Constitution

Previously, in 1958, a constitutional referendum had been convened, the rejection of which would have resulted in immediate independence from colonial France. Although turnout was low with only 36.7% of eligible voters casting their vote, 78.43% of those approved the constitution, thereby granting internal autonomy within the *Communauté Française*. Thereafter, on 25 February 1959 the first constitution was ratified by the Constituent Assembly. The constitution set up a quasi-parliamentary system with a president of the council with executive powers invested by an assembly to whom he was responsible. The latter, elected for five years, was composed of 60 deputies.

The Second Constitution

In 1960, a new constitution was ratified by the National Assembly that included the transfer of governmental powers from the French to the Nigerien state. This constitution marked the first fully independent constitutional system of the Republic of Niger: The First Republic. Moreover, it set up a presidential system in which the executive president was to be elected by universal franchise simultaneously with deputies for the assembly for a five-year mandate. In 1965, the constitution underwent a reform, which entailed the disassociation of the presidential election from the elections of the National Assembly and specified that deputies would be elected on the basis of national lists.

Although the first republic in 1960 effectively suppressed the pluralist substance of democracy, it always retained a pretense of constitutional, republican governance, with elections and a national assembly. In 1974 the new military regime installed a 'regime of exception' in which republican institutions were temporarily suspended and the constitution abrogated.

The National Charter

In the 1980s, the regime started the democratization process, during which the *Conseil National de Développement* adopted the *Charte Nationale*. After its adoption, it was ratified through a referendum in June 1987. The charter received near-unanimous approval from 99.58% of voters. It defined the development society, the concept of the state and the organization of the executive councils tasked with the mission of pushing the country forward using rules for 'consultation, dialogue and participation'. The Charter was however only a step toward the future adoption of a constitution.

The Third Constitution

In September 1989, a constitutional referendum for the approval of a single-party presidential system was convened and ended

with 99.28% of the votes in favor. The constitution was ratified and saw the reemergence of party politics via a single governmental party headed by President Ali Saibou and an elected national assembly for the first time since the establishment of the military regime in 1974. The 1989 Constitution was abrogated shortly after, in 1991, by the *Conférence Nationale*.

The Fourth Constitution

In April 1991, a constitutional revision took place, which radically modified the 1989 constitution by introducing a semi-presidential, multi-party regime and clearly separating the armed forces from the executive. A further innovation was the bestowing the power of constitutional review on the *Cour Suprême*.

In December 1992, voters were again called to cast their vote in a Constitutional referendum, which foresaw a multiparty semi-presidential system, with a president and legislature serving for five years per term without term limits. Turnout was high and 89.79% approved the constitution. Thereby, the head of state, elected for five years in two electoral rounds, was the actual head of the government. The President, however, had legislative powers, enabling him to request the right to change the law, in order to implement his programs, from Parliament.

The Fifth Constitution

In July 1999, a new referendum for the Constitution was convened, in which voters were requested to approve a multiparty semi-presidential system, with two term limits on the presidency and a judiciary with enhanced review powers. In fact, it gave to the Supreme Court true judicial powers, rendering political manipulation extremely difficult. Irrespective of the very low turnout at 31.2% the constitution was approved.

The Sixth Constitution

This constitution 'reigned' for 10 years, until a new constitutional referendum in 2009 was convened by President Mamadou Tandja. The constitution foresaw a multi-party system removing presidential term limits, granting absolute executive powers to the president, and creating an upper chamber – the Senate. Independent observers regard the referendum to have taken place under coercive conditions, during which the opposition boycotted the voting and voter participation was below 10%.

The Seventh Constitution

This constitution only lasted a few months, as President Tandja was ousted in 2010 by a military *coup d'état*. In the same year, the *Conseil Suprême pour la Restauration de la Démocratie*, led by Salou Djibo, organized the transition and convened a further constitutional referendum. The new constitution restored the semi-presidential system of the 1999 Constitution and was approved of by 90% of the voters. The current Seventh Republic operates under this Constitution, which is divided into 14 Titles, and 185 Articles.

2.2 Elections

Presidential Elections

The President of the Republic, as provided in art. 47 of the Constitution, is elected by universal, free, direct, equal and secret suffrage for a mandate of five years, renewable one sole time. The election of the President takes place by majority ballot in two rounds. If a candidate were to obtain the absolute majority in the first round they would be declared elected. However, if this condition is not met, it proceeds to a second round of the ballot, in which the two candidates that received the most votes in the first round take part.

The last Nigerien Presidential elections were held on 21 February 2016. A total of 15 candidates ran for presidency, with incumbent President Mahamadou Issoufou running for a second term. Among the 15 candidates, there were two main opposition

candidates to the President. Seyni Oumarou of the National Movement for the Development of Society (MNSD) and Hama Amadou of the Nigerien Democratic Movement for an African Federation (MODEN/FA), who had been campaigning from prison since November 2015, due to his involvement in a baby-trafficking ring between Nigeria, Benin and Niger.

The first round resulted in 48% of votes for President Issoufou and 17.8% for opposition candidate Amadou. None of the candidates had an absolute majority, thus a second-round was convened. However, it did not occur without 'problems' as opposition candidates announced a boycott of the vote, claiming fraudulent electoral process. Despite the unfounded claims, the second round was held and due to the boycott, the incumbent won by a significant margin, gaining 92.5% of the votes.

FIRST ROUND: 21 FEBRUARY 2016

Voters:	7,580,598		
Votes cast:	5,059,880	66.7	
Invalid votes:	412,344	08.1	
Valid votes:	4,647,536	91.9	
Candidate	Party	Votes	%
Hama Amadou	MODEN	826,711	17.8
Amadou Cheiffou	RSD	82,568	01.8
Amadou Cissé	UDR	68,683	01.5
Tahirou Guimba	MODEL	8,361	00.4
Mahamane Hamissou	PJD	6,998	00.2
Mahamadou Issoufou	PNDS	2,249,738	48.4
Abdou Labo	CDS	97,243	02.1
Lawan Magagi	ARD	44,595	01.0
Mahamane Jean-Phillipe Padonou	CDP	16,415	00.4
Kassoum Moctar	CPR	135,149	02.9
Seini Oumarou	MNSD	562,869	12.1
Mahamane Ousmane	MNRD	290,552	06.3
Adal Roubéid	MDR	27,280	00.6
Abdoulaye Traore	PPNU	18,588	00.4
Ibrahim Yacoubou	MPN	201,786	04.3
Total		4,647,536	

SECOND ROUND: 20 MARCH 2016

Voters:	7,581,540		
Votes cast:	4,533,267	59.8	
Invalid votes:	94,625	02.1	
Valid votes:	4,438,642	98.9	
Candidate	Party	Votes	%
Hama Amadou	MODEN	333,143	07.5
Mahamadou Issoufou	PNDS	4,105,499	92.5
Total		4,438,642	

Source: National Independent Elections Commission

Parliamentary Elections

The legislative power is exercised by a unique chamber, the National Assembly, composed by 171 deputies: 158 from 8 multi-member constituencies using a proportional representation system. Eight seats are elected from special constituencies reserved for ethnic minorities, while five seats are for Nigeriens

abroad. Both the minority and expatriate seats are elected through a first-past-the-post system. The deputies are elected by universal and direct suffrage. The duration of their mandate is five years.

The elections for the legislative body were held on 21 February¹ 2016. The parties supporting Issoufou won a majority, gaining

118 of the 171 seats in the National Assembly. The President's party, Nigerien Party for Democracy and Socialism – Tarayya, won 75 seats (35.7%).

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) deployed an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to observe the 2016 Presidential and Legislative elections and concluded that the election was held in a calm and peaceful atmosphere.

The African Union, which deployed 40 observers, said that it

NATIONAL SUMMARY OF VOTES AND SEATS

Registered voters:	7,574,958		
Votes cast:	5,020,167	66.3	
Invalid votes:	259,377	05.2	
Valid votes:	4,760,790	94.8	
<hr/>			
Party	Votes	%	Seats
<hr/>			
ANDP	140,579	03.0	4
MNRD	198,444	04.2	6
MNSD	488,584	10.3	20
MODEN	613,905	12.9	25
MPN	137,333	02.9	5
MPR	256,636	05.4	13
PNDS	1,701,372	35.7	75
RSD	99,987	02.1	4
Others	1,123,950	23.6	19
<hr/>			
Total	4,760,790		171

Source: Constitutional Court of Niger

was generally satisfied with the organization of the vote, despite delays in some areas caused by logistical glitches.

On 24 March 2016, the National Assembly elected Ousseini Tinni as President of the Assembly. On March 30th, the Constitutional Court validated the result and formally declared Issoufou President for his second term. In April, Issoufou was sworn in and reappointed Brigi Rafini as Prime Minister.

The Cabinet:

President	Mahamadou Issoufou
Prime Minister	Brigi Rafini (PNDS- <i>Tarayya</i>) PNDS)

Council of Ministers

Civil Service and Administrative Reform	Waziri Maman Laouan
Commerce and Promotion of the Private Sector	Alma Oumarou (MNSD)
Communications	Amina Moumouni
Community Development and Regional Planning	Djika Rakiatou Bako
Cultural Renaissance, Arts, and Social Modernization	Assoumana Mallam Issa (PNDS- <i>Tarayya</i>)
Employment, Labor, and Social Security	Chaoulani Zénaba
Energy and Oil	Pierre Foumakoye Gado (PNDS- <i>Tarayya</i>)
Entrepreneurship of Youth	Ibrahim Issifi Sadou
Environment and Sustainable Development	Wassalké Boukari (MNSD)
Equipment	Kadi Abdoulaye
Finance	Saidou Sidibé (PNDS- <i>Tarayya</i>)
Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Nigeriens Abroad	Ibrahim Yacouba
Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Innovation	Mohamed Ben Omar
Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management	Magagi Laouan
Justice and Keeper of the Seals	Marou Amadou (PNDS- <i>Tarayya</i>)
Lands and Urban Development	Moctar Kassoum
Mines and Industry	Hassane Barazé Moussa
National Defense	Massoudou Hassoumi (PNDS- <i>Tarayya</i>)
Office of the President	Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou (PNDS- <i>Tarayya</i>)
Planning	Kané Aïchatou Boulama
Population	Kaffa Rékiatou Jackou
Posts, Telecommunications, and the Digital Economy	Yahouza Sadissou
Primary Education, Literacy, and Promotion of National Languages	Daouda Marthé
Professional and Technical Education	Amani Abdou
Public Health	Kalla Moutari
Relations with Institutions	Barkaï Issouf
Secondary Education	Sani Abdourahamane
Tourism and Handicrafts	Sani Maïgochi
Towns and Urban Planning	Habi Mahamane Salissou (MNSD)
Water Management and Sanitation	Barmou Salifou
Youth and Sports	Salissou Ada
<i>Ministers of State</i>	
Agriculture	Albadé Abouba (MNSD)
Interior, Public Security, Decentralization, and Religious and Customary Affairs	Bazoum Mohamed (PNDS- <i>Tarayya</i>)
Transport	Omar Hamidou Tchiana (MODEN- <i>Lumana</i> FA/Niger)

2.3 Political Parties

Political parties were banned in Niger for more than a decade during the Kountché regime. The National Movement for Developing Society (MNSD) was established as a government formation in 1988 and in the months following President Saibou accepting a multi-party system a further 15 parties were provisionally recognized. Political party activity was suspended immediately after the 1999 military coup; however, the suspension was lifted soon after. In the years that followed, numerous coalitions were formed and alliances between parties changed constantly.

Governmental and Government-Supporting Parties:

Nigerien Party for Democracy and Socialism–Tarayya (*Parti Nigerien pour la Démocratie et le Socialisme–Tarayya, PNDS-Tarayya*)

The party is a broadly left-wing party, part of the Socialist International association. Since 2011 it has been in power following the election of its long-time leader, Mahamadou Issoufou, as President.

In the 1993 legislative elections, the PNDS-Tarayya, won 13 of the 83 seats in the National Assembly. Having gained just 16% of the votes in the first-round of the presidential elections, party leader and presidential candidate Mahamadou Issoufou was eliminated from the second-round ballot. However, he was subsequently named prime minister.

In May 2009, the PNDS firmly opposed the president's constitutional referendum and organized massive, peaceful protests that included civil rights groups, trade unions, students, and supporters of former prime minister Amadou.

Following the 2010 coup that ousted Tandja, the PNDS nominated Issoufou as its leader for the 2011 presidential election. The PNDS won 34 seats in the concurrent parliamentary election. Issoufou had to step down as party president, as the constitution requires that the head of state cannot be involved in party politics. Thus, Bazoum was elected head of the party.

In November 2015, incumbent president Issoufou was elected as the party's presidential candidate. Issoufou was reelected in March 2016. Meanwhile, the party won 75 seats in the February 2016 Assembly elections with 35.7 percent of the vote.

Leaders:

- Mohamed BAZOUM (President),
- Foumakoye GADO (Vice President),
- Hassoumi MASSAOU DOU (Secretary General),
- Kalla ANKOURAO (Deputy Secretary General).

Democratic Rally of the People–Jama'a (*Rassemblement Démocratique du Peuple–Jama'a—RDP–Jama'a*)

RDP was established as the ruling party during the presidency of Ibrahim Baré Maïnassara in 1997. During the 2009 constitutional referendum, the party opposed it, unless it also included a measure that would abolish amnesty for those who

were involved in the assassination of Maïnassara. However, it dropped the conditional demand and supported the referendum. In the 2016 presidential elections, RDP endorsed Issoufou and won three seats in the Assembly.

Leader:

- Hamid ALGABID (Chair and 1999 and 2004 presidential candidate).

The Democratic and Social Convention - Rahama (*Convention démocratique et sociale-Rahama, CDS-Rahama*)

The party was founded in 1991. In the legislative elections in 1993, CDS captured 22 seats, and in 1995 it increased its assembly representation to 24 seats. Even though the party had always been supportive of President Tandja, it opposed the 2009 constitutional referendum. Abdou Labo was chosen as the 2016 presidential candidate, gaining 2.1% of the vote. In the legislative elections, CDS captured three seats.

Leaders:

- Abdou LABO (2016 presidential candidate),
- Nabram ISSOUFOU,
- Maïdagi ALLAMBEY.

Nigerien Democratic Movement for an African Federation–Lumana (*Mouvement Démocratique Nigérien pour une Fédération Africaine-Lumana, MODEN-Lumana-FA/Niger*)

In 2011 the MODEN nominated Hama Amadou as its candidate for the presidential elections, however it did not reach the second round. Thus, it backed Issoufou in the second round, winning the third highest number of seats (23) in the parliamentary elections. In 2012, the party was hit by a series of scandals: nine MPs were suspected of embezzling \$3 million, which led the party to suspend its activities.

In 2014, the party split, leading to the emergence of two wing: one headed by Amadou and the other by Omar Hamidou Tchiana. In 2014, six MODEN members were held in custody on charges of plotting against the security of the state. The Court of Appeal of Niamey released them on August 26. The accused include two former ministers, Abdourahame Seydou (Sport) and Soumana SANDA (Health), and former mayor of central Niamey, Oumarou Moumouni DOGARI, all close to Hama Amadou. That same month, Amadou fled to Burkina Faso and ultimately France to escape an investigation into his alleged involvement in a baby trafficking ring.

Despite Amadou's incarceration, the party chose him as presidential candidate for the 2016 elections. The Tchiana wing backed president Issoufou and Tchiana was nominated minister of transport.

Leaders:

- Hama AMADOU (President of the Party, Speaker of the National Assembly, and 2011 and 2016 presidential candidate),
- Salissou Mamadou HABI (Vice President),
- Noma OUMAROU (Second Vice President),
- Almoustapha Cissé (Treasurer),
- Ali GAZAGAZA (Deputy Secretary General),
- Omar Hamidou TCHIANA (Secretary General).

Union for Democracy and the Republic–Tabbat (*Union pour la Démocratie et la République–Tabbat, UDR-Tabbat*).

The UDR-Tabbat won six seats in the 2011 parliamentary elections. Former Prime Minister Amadou Boubacar Cissé was appointed one of three ministers of state in the new government. Cissé was the party's 2016 candidate, garnering 1.5 percent of the vote. The UDR-Tabbat won two seats in the Assembly elections, but Cissé did not rejoin the government.

Leader:

- Amadou Boubacar Cissé (Party Leader and 2016 presidential candidate).

Other Legislative Parties:

National Movement for a Developing Society–Victory (*Mouvement National pour une Société de Développement–Nassara, MNSD–Nassara*)

MNSD was founded under the military rule of 1974-1990 and was the ruling party from 1989 to 1993 and again from 1999 until the 2010 coup d'état. MNSD, founded by Ali Saibou, was the only legal party in the country. In 1991, two factions emerged: one headed by Tandja and the other by Moumouni Adamou Djermakoye. In 1999, the MNSD won the presidential elections, with Tandja winning over Issoufou. In the 2004 general elections, Tandja was re-elected President and Amadou remained Prime Minister. However, in 2008, Amadou was arrested on charges of corruption and subsequently imprisoned. In 2009 elections, MNSD won 76 seats. Following the February 2010 coup, party secretary general Abouba, along with other high-ranking government members, was detained. In the 2011 parliamentary elections, MNSD won 25 seats. In March, Abouba was released with no charges having been brought against him. Oumarou was the official MNSD candidate in the 2016 presidential election. He placed third with 12.1 percent of the vote, and his party secured 10.3 percent of the vote and 20 seats in the Assembly balloting.

Leaders:

- Seini OUMAROU (Former Prime Minister and Party Chair, 2011 presidential candidate),
- Albadé ABOUBA (Secretary General).

Nigerien Movement for Democratic Renewal (*Mouvement Nigérien pour le Renouveau Démocratique, MNRD–Hankuri*)

MNRD was founded in 2009, but did not contest the 2011 general elections. In 2016, the party formed an alliance with the Nigerian Social Democratic Party –*Alhéri (Parti Social Démocrate du Niger–Alhéri—PSDN–Alhéri)*, and together nominated Mahamane Ousmane as presidential candidate. Ousmane failed to progress to the second round-ballot, gaining 6.3% of the vote in the first round. In the legislative elections, the alliance captured 6 seats.

Leader:

- Mahamane OUSMANE (Former Speaker of the National Assembly, Former President of the Republic, and President of the Party).

Nigerien Alliance for Democracy and Progress–Zaman Lahiya (*Alliance Nigérienne pour la Démocratie et le Progrès–Zaman Lahiya, ANDP–Zaman Lahiya*)

In 1992, ANDP vice president Birgi Raffini was arrested during an army crackdown on suspected Front for the Liberation of Air and Azaouad (*Front de Libération de l'Aïr et l'Azaouad—FLAA*) rebels and sympathizers. He was released in early 1993, and his party won 11 seats in legislative balloting that February. The presidential candidate, Moumouni Adamou Djermakoye, secured only 15 percent of the vote in the first round of presidential balloting. In April, he was nominated National Assembly president. In the 1996 presidential elections, Djermakoye gained only 4.8% of the vote.

In 1998 the ANDP joined the PUND-Salama and the PNA to form a pro-Mainassara group called Alliance of Democratic Social Forces (*Alliance des Forces Démocratiques et Sociales—AFDS*). In 2004, Djermakoye not entering the second-ballot round, supported Tandja. However, despite the support, the party opposed the 2009 constitutional referendum. In the 2016 legislative elections, the party received 3% of the vote, thus gaining 4 seats in the Assembly.

Leader:

- Moussa Moumouni DJERMAKOYE (President and 2011 presidential candidate).

Patriotic Movement for the Republic (*Mouvement Patriotique pour la République—MPR–Jamhuriyai*)

The MPR was established in October 2015 by defectors from the MNSD. The party did not field a presidential candidate in 2016, but 7.1 percent of the vote in the Assembly balloting and 13 seats, becoming the fourth-largest party.

Leader:

- Albadé ABOUBA.

Nigerien Patriotic Movement (*Mouvement Patriotique Nigérien, MPN–Kishin Kassa*)

The MPN-Kishin Kassa was founded in November 2015 by renegades from the PNDS, led by Ibrahim Yacouba. He was the party's presidential candidate in 2016, but only received 4.3

percent of the vote. The party won 3.3 percent of the vote and five seats.

Leader:

- Ibrahim YACOUBA.

Social Democratic Rally–Gaskiya (*Rassemblement pour Sociale Démocrate–Gaskiya, RSD-Gaskiya*)

The party was founded in 2004 and nominated Amadou Cheiffou as the presidential candidate. He received only 6.3% of the vote in the first-round ballot. However, in the legislative elections, it gained seven seats and representation in the Tandje's cabinet.

In the 2009, RDS was among the few supportive parties of the constitutional referendum. In the 2016 presidential elections, the party's candidate was Cheiffou, winning 1.8% and 2.9% in the legislative elections.

Leaders:

- Amadou CHEIFFOU (Former Prime Minister and 2004 and 2016 presidential candidate),
- Mahamadou Ali TCHÉMOGO (Secretary General).

Other parties winning seats in the 2016 elections were:

the Congress for the Republic (*Congrès Pour la République, CPR-Inganc*), founded in 2014 and led by 2016 presidential candidate Maradi Kassoum MOCTAR, which won three seats;

the Alliance of Movements for the Emergence of Niger (*Alliance des Mouvements pour l'Emergence du Niger, AMEN AMIN*), established in 2015 by Oumarou Haridou Ladan TCHIANA, which won three seats;

the Alliance for Democratic Renewal (*Alliance pour le Renouveau Démocratique-Adaltchi-Mutunchi, ARD-Adaltchi-Mutunchi*), led by 2011 presidential candidate Issoufou Ousmane OUBANDAWAKI, which won 2 seats;

the Social Democratic Party (*Parti Sociale Démocrate, PSD-Bassira*), created in 2015 by Mohamed Ben OMAR, which won two seats; and

the Democratic Alliance for Niger (*Alliance Démocratique pour le Niger, ADN-Fusaha*), established in 2014 by Habi Mahamadou SALISSOU, which won 1 seat.

Extra-parliamentary parties:

Niger Party for Self-Management (*Parti Nigérien pour l'Autogestion–Al Ouma—PNA–Al Ouma*)

The party was founded by Sanoussi Jackou in 1997. The party supported Tandja in the 1999 presidential elections. In May 2002, Jackou received a four-months suspended prison sentence after he was accused of slander and inciting hatred. In January 2005 he was released after serving a one-month prison sentence for insulting an ethnic group during a radio broadcast. The party opposed the 2009 constitutional referendum. In the 2016 legislative elections, the party won 0.5% of the votes, thus not receiving any seat.

Leader:

- Sanoussi Jackou

Nigerien Democratic Front–Mutunci (*Front Démocratique Nigerien–Mutunci—FDN–Mutunci*), established in 1995;

Union of Popular Forces for Democracy and Progress–Sawaba (*Union des Forces Populaires pour la Démocratie et le Progrès–Sawaba—UFPDP–Sawaba*);

Union for Democracy and Social Progress–Amana (*Union pour la Démocratie et le Progrès Social–Amana, UDPS–Amana*), established in 1990, and won 0.1% in the 2016 elections;

Movement for Democracy and Progress (*Mouvement pour la Démocratie et le Progrès, MDP–Alkawali*) established in 1992 by Mai Manga Boukar;

Rally of Nigerien Patriots–Al Kalami, founded in May 2009 by Ousmane Issoufou OUBANDAWAKI;

Workers' Movement Party–Albarka, PMT–Albarka, led by Abdoukarim MAMALO; and

Revolutionary-Social Movement for Democracy (*Mouvement Socio-Révolutionnaire pour la Démocratie–Damana, MSRD–Damana*), led by Ibrahima Saidou MAIGA.

2.4 Key Political Leaders

Mahamadou Issoufou (1951-)



Issoufou, an Ader Hausa, the highly educated leader of the PNDS party, was born in Tahoua Department. As a mining engineer, he served as national director of mines in 1980-1985 and then as secretary-general of the *Société des Mines de l'Air* (SOMAIR), Niger's main mining company. In 1993, at the beginning of the democratization process, once the first multiparty legislative and presidential elections were held, Issoufou decided to create a progressive party together with various left-wing intellectuals, including philosophy professor Bazoum Mohammed and Maman Abou, the future founder of the weekly *Le Républicain*. At the first multiparty elections in 1993, PNDS won 13 seats, one of which was allocated to Issoufou. He waged three unsuccessful presidential campaigns in 1996, 1999 and 2004, finishing second to Tadjia in the latter two elections. As the head of the PNDS, he emerged as the leading opposition figure during Tadjia's rule, in particular during the 2009 constitutional referendum. In 2011, once Tadjia was deposed and the military junta convened general elections, Issoufou won the presidency. Issoufou vowed to honor all peace agreements that had been signed with Tuareg rebel groups and after his inauguration, he appointed a Tuareg, Brigi Rafini as Prime Minister. In the 2016 presidential elections he was re-elected for his second term.

Brigi Rafini (1953-)



Rafini was born in Iférouane in the Agadez Region, part of the Colony of Niger in French West Africa. He has worked as a civil administrator, minister and office holder for four different political parties. He served as a parliamentarian and assembly officer under the RDP in opposition during the Fifth Republic (1999–2009). He has since formally joined the Nigerien Party for Democracy and Socialism (PNDS). When Issoufou won the 2011 and 2016 presidential elections, he appointed Rafini as Prime Minister.

Hama Amadou (1949-)



Hama Amadou was Prime Minister from 1995 to 1996 and from 2000 to 2007. Amadou, accused of corruption, was removed from office as PM through a 2007 no-confidence vote in the National Assembly. In 2008 he was indicted on the corruption charges by the Nigerien High Court of Justice and subsequently arrested, which led to him losing the presidency of MNSD. From 2011 to 2014, Amadou was President of the National Assembly of Niger. In 2014, he fled Niger to escape arrest on charges related to a baby-trafficking investigation. In November 2015, Amadou returned to Niger to seek Presidential election, but was immediately arrested upon arrival. In 2016, he campaigned from prison for the presidential election, and gained 17.1% in the first-round. The second round was boycotted. Later that year, the Niamey Court of Appeal issued an order for the provisional release of Amadou, although he had already left the country. In March 2017, Amadou was sentenced in absentia to one year in prison for his alleged involvement in the baby-trafficking from Nigeria. Amadou has since then remained in France.

2.5 Security Sector

The security situation in West Africa and the Sahel remains fragile and continues to be marked by terrorist attacks against security forces and civilians. The threats posed by cross-border crime, including piracy and trafficking in drugs and weapons further destabilize the security environment across the West African countries.

Niger, being located at the heart of the Sahel, is directly affected by the region's most violent conflicts. Crises in Libya, Mali, and Nigeria have a spill-over effect and impact Niger's internal security and socio-economic stability. Moreover, its geographical position resulted in Niger being a primary transit route for armed criminal and terrorist groups operating in the neighboring countries. According to the 2017 Fragile States Index, Niger is ranked 20th of 178 countries and 20th on the 2017 Global Terrorism Index (Nigeria is ranked 3rd).

Internally, Niger has remained relatively stable since the 2010 coup d'état. However, the situation remains fragile, as the root causes of past insurrections have not been addressed. Moreover, the increasing number of security incidents has compelled the Government to dedicate 17% of public expenditure to the security sector in 2018, as opposed to 15% in 2017. This has triggered demonstrations, given the expected detrimental effects on the delivery of social services.

Until recently, Niger was relatively spared by terrorist groups, however, since 2015 Boko Haram started to make frequent attacks in the country. In November 2017 alone, Boko Haram caused 143 civilian casualties.

Despite the government's great difficulty in ensuring security, it has significantly boosted its security capacity becoming a key partner in the counter-terrorist campaigns of western nations, which are providing substantial support to Niger's security sector.

Terrorism threat

Before 2015, Niger had served mainly as a transit route for terrorist groups as well as a source of funding and recruitment. However, with Niger's engagement in the fight against terrorism, armed groups started to perpetrate attacks throughout the country. In fact, Niger deployed peacekeepers in Mali, joined both the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and the G5 Sahel Force to fight against Boko Haram, thus becoming a key partner for French and US military efforts in the region.

Despite Niger's efforts to secure its borders, their length, coupled with the desert terrain, render this an extremely arduous task. Moreover, the absence of a functioning government in the neighboring countries (Libya and Mali), represents a further obstacle in securing the country.

Threat from Niger's western borders: Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and Islamic State (IS)

In the 2000s, Niger was used by the Groupe Salafiste pour la Prédication et le Combat (GSPC) as a strategic base and refuge. However, after GSPC rebranded as Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, terrorist attacks throughout Niger became frequent. The first attack in Niger took place on May 23rd 2013, when a

military camp and the French Areva uranium facility in the Agadez region were attacked. During the attack 24 people lost their life. Two factions of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, i.e. the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa and Al Moulathamoun (which later merged into a new group called Al Murabitun) claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Since 2016, attacks became more frequent. Alone in the regions of Tahoua and Tillabéri, OCHA counted 46 attacks between February 2016 and October 2017. Moreover, several attacks were directed at security officers along the border areas with Mali and Burkina Faso. On several occasions the attackers seized weapons, vehicles and uniforms from Nigerien forces to use in later attacks. Adnane Abu Walid Al-Sahrawi, who was affiliated with MUJAO, claimed responsibility for several attacks. In 2015, Al-Sahrawi announced Al Murabitun's support for the Islamic State (IS). In 2016, Amaq, the IS media agency, broadcast the acceptance of al-Sahrawi's affiliation with IS, thus creating the Islamic State in the Greater Sahel (IS-GS). Its current status is however unclear, as it also maintained close links with Al-Qaeda.

The main target for IS-GS are Nigerien security forces. In October 2017, the Tongo Tongo ambush occurred, when armed militants from IS-IG attacked Nigerien and American soldiers in Tongo Tongo, Niger, while they were returning to base from a mission. During the ambush, five Nigeriens, four Americans, and 21 militants were killed, while eight Nigeriens and two Americans were wounded.

In March 2017, Iyad ag Ghali announced the creation of a new jihadist entity, the Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin ('The Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims'; JNIM), which brought together elements of Ansar Dine, Katibat Macina, Al Murabitun, and AQIM. JNIM's leader positioned himself under the authority of AQIM emir Droukdel and AQ leader Al-Zawahiri. JNIM conducted several deadly attacks throughout Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger.

Threats from the South: Boko Haram

Boko Haram is a jihadist militant organization that is based in northeastern Nigeria but is also active in Chad and Cameroon. Niger was used as a back-up base to source supplies. However, since 2015 it conducted deadly attacks on Nigerien soil, causing significant displacement of the local population.

Between February 2015 and May 2017 Boko Haram killed at least 320 civilians, injured more than 140 and kidnapped more than 50. Moreover, Boko Haram targets Nigerien security forces killing more than 60 members in 2016.

Since mid-2016, the group has been making fewer attacks, due to the MNJTF operations and internal divisions. In fact, Boko Haram split into two factions, which compete and fight over resources and members. Despite the decline in attacks, there has been an uptick in the number of incidents with a peak of 143 civilian casualties in November 2017 alone.

One faction, headed by Abubakar Shekau is located towards the Sambissa Forest. The other faction, headed by Abu Musab

Barnawi, presents an immediate threat to Niger, as it is located on Lake Chad and Komadugu. Barnawi's group aims at attacking security forces. It claimed responsibility for the Bosso military camp attack, during which thirty-two members of the security forces were killed. Boko Haram members are in constant search of military equipment, arms and ammunition. Thus, the attack on the military camp was a strategic one, as they captured significant quantities of military material. The Bosso attack also resulted in more than 50.000 people fleeing the area.

Arms and ammunition used by Boko Haram:

The group obtains material from different sources, including national stockpiles from the countries where it operates. The group is known to have obtained material from Nigerien and Nigerian arsenals, corrupting officers and attacking military camps.

Nigerien nationals in Boko Haram

The precise number of Boko Haram's force is unknown, as the number of Nigerien affiliated to the group.

However, it is known that in the 2000s a significant number of Nigeriens joined Boko Haram, seduced by the preaching of Mohamed Yusuf (the founder) or for money. Certain parts of the population continue to cooperate with Boko Haram, in particular in terms of food supply and sharing intelligence. To prevent this, authorities adopted measures to stem any flow of resources to Boko Haram, affecting however the broader population.

Moreover, with the loss of the territories and successful military operation, members increasingly surrendered, only in October 2016, 400 former members in Chad. In order to incentive surrender, Nigerien authorities introduced the idea of amnesty for Boko Haram defectors through a reintegration program. Many members, approx. 1.300 have also been arrested for Boko Haram linkages, and trails began in October 2017.

Nigerien nationals in Malian-based terrorist groups

Since the outbreak of the crisis in Mali, Nigeriens have joined several Mali-based terrorist groups, e.g. AQIM, MUJAO, and Al Murabitun, and young Fulani. Jihadist groups exploit community tensions, frustration, poverty and under-development.

Community conflicts

Niger's long-standing community divisions, further exacerbated by increased insecurity, continue to destabilize the country. Armed entities started to form along community lines, which are fighting one another for access to resources. The community conflicts between Niger and Mali are particular frequent and

violent. Moreover, Boko Haram's presence and counter-offenses have aggravated the tensions between communities, resulting in a significant number of IDPs resorting to natural resources. Some communities have formed their own armed forces to protect their livestock, in order to prevent appropriation by Boko Haram forces and other groups.

Armed robbery

Armed robbery remains one of the main causes of insecurity in Niger, the Agadez region being the most affected area.

The largely deserted Agadez region has long been neglected and government presence is still weak, if not nearly absent.

The region has become a major cross-border smuggling area. High levels of trafficking and contraband, now including migrants and drugs into Libya have been reported.

The cross-border trafficking networks are controlled by wealthy and powerful businessmen who are also often involved in local politics. The economic hardship particularly in the northern region is aggravating the levels of insecurity, resulting in a dramatic increase of armed robbery incidents.

In the south-east regions, comprising Maradi, Zinder and Diffa, armed robberies occur less often, when compared to the northern regions. This may result from the military control in the region and the security forces deployed to counter Boko Haram's forces.

The south-west area, comprising the regions of Tillaberi, Dosso and Tahoua, affected by the Malian crisis, have experienced an increase in insecurity levels and armed robberies. Most of the attacks occur on roads and in campements. The most reported thefts are vehicles and cash. The area is also a key drugs entry-point for Mali, and incidents of armed robbery, retaliation and kidnapping are frequent.

Arms trafficking

Niger has served as a key transit route for weapons heading to neighboring conflict zones. However, the deterioration of the security situation in the country has resulted in an increase in the domestic demand for weapons. The illegal weapons circulating throughout Niger are mainly left-over material from past uprising, material from national stockpiles and material smuggled in from neighboring countries, Libya in particular. Terrorist groups operating in Niger, including those based in Mali and Nigeria, have been obtaining materiel from these sources. However, the ammunition held by civilians are similar to those of the armed groups, indicating a common source.

The reinforcement of Nigerien security forces, the launch of Operation Barkhane and the presence of foreign troops has made the trafficking of illegal weapons more arduous, resulting in a steadily decline.

3. Law Enforcement

3.1 The Police

Law enforcement in Niger falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Defense through the National Gendarmerie and the Ministry of Interior through the National Police and the National Guard, a paramilitary police force.

Under the authority of a High Commander, the National Gendarmerie (which has about 3,700 personnel) is responsible for enforcing the law in rural areas, while the National Police focuses its activities in urban and peri-urban areas. Located in the heart of the capital, in front of the National Assembly (Place de la Concertation), the General Directorate of the National Police (DGPN), is composed of nine central directorates including that of the Judicial Police. Under the supervision of the judicial authority, the Judicial Police has the specific task of uncovering and observing criminal law offenses, gathering evidence, and investigating and arresting the perpetrators of the criminal offenses, with a view to bringing them before the competent judicial authorities. The Nigerian National Police is estimated to have 8,500 total personnel. Its essential mission is to ensure the enforcement of laws and regulations, to ensure the protection of persons and property, to prevent disturbances to public order and tranquility, and to combat all forms of delinquency. It also ensures the search and exploitation of information and information that will

enable government authorities to detect and prevent any threat that could harm the national institutions, fundamental interests and national sovereignty of Niger.

The National Guard is responsible for domestic security and the protection of government buildings and high-level officials. With a personnel force of about 10,000, the National Guard is used by the administration as a reserve force to maintain law and order.

The Police suffers from lack of resources, adequate training and external observers consider it to be largely ineffective, due to a lack in training and basic supplies (vehicle fuel, radios, and other investigatory and law enforcement equipment). Only specialized police units have basic weapon-handling skills.

Corruption is widespread, but there are no official information or reports on corruption among security forces and police. It is perceived to be the most corrupt institution in Niger. Cases of corruption occur in particular at the borders, contributing to the country's security challenges. Border-control forces often take bribes from migrants, aggravating the migrant smuggling and flows of illegal migration. Moreover, terrorist groups collect funds at the local level by controlling trans-border trade, thus having a severe consequence in the local context of volatile security.

3.2 Other Security Forces

Nigerien security forces

Nigerien security expenditure has risen dramatically over the last decade, becoming the third highest priority in the national budget. However, Nigerien military and security forces' capacity to address the root causes of violence and counter terrorism are limited. Thus, the country is highly dependent on international partners, who have played a key role in ensuring internal security in Niger.

Currently, the Nigerien security forces are running four military operations in Niger, all of them to counter the threats from the neighboring countries.

Operation Zarmaganda

This operation involves troops deployed in Tillaberi to contain threats to security coming from Mali. It was replaced by operation Dongo in 2017.

Operation Djado

Focusing on insecurity in the Djado Plateau where gold-mining activities, which displaced thousands of people in the region, have been banned since March 2017. This operation superseded Operation Malibero, launched in 2011 to contain security threats emanating from Libya as a result of the country's revolution and ensuing conflicts.

Operation Chara

This operation involves troops deployment in the north of Tahoua. It was suspended after the Bosso attack in June 2016 to redeploy personnel to the south-east; however, with the latest comeback of terrorist attacks at the borders with Mali and Burkina Faso, the operation has been redeployed.

Operation N'ga

This operation was launched in 2014 to combat Boko Haram in the southern parts of the country. Niger then, joined the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), becoming its 'fourth sector' with its regional command post in Diffa.

Regional security cooperation against threats

Regional cooperation to tackle cross-border threats is a fundamental pillar, however its realization is limited, due to lack of capacity and resources, political will and divergence of security and political agendas.

Most significant efforts in joint collaboration by the security forces in the Sahel are driven by Operation Barkhane.

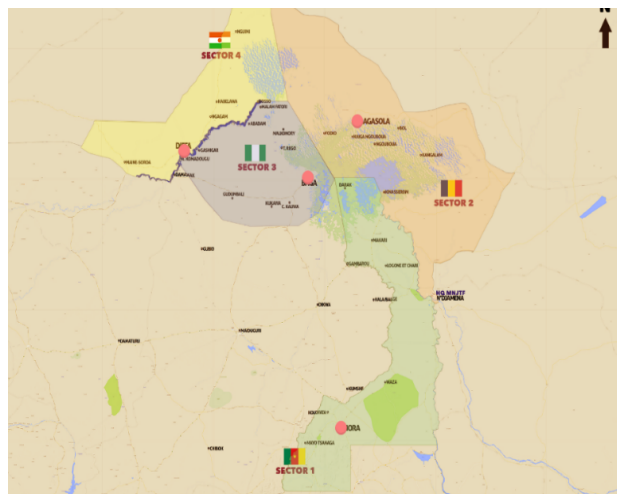
Operation Barkhane

Operation Barkhane was launched in 2014 to serve as France's main counterterrorism in the Sahel. It regionalized French military involvement in the Sahel and covers Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger. As a matter of fact, Niger is a key component of Barkhane: the force has a presence in Madama, Diffa, and Tillaberi, while the Niamey Deployable Air Base (BAP) houses at least three Medium Altitude Long-Endurance (MAPS) MQ-9 Reaper UAVs, one Atlantique-2 patrol craft, and

several Mirage 2000 fighter aircrafts tasked with patrolling in the region of Gao.

- Madama: this base includes at least 200 French soldiers and several helicopters. It sits in a strategic location, as forces stationed there are able to monitor the Niger–Libya border from Toummo Pass east to the tripartite border of Algeria, Mali, and Niger.
- Diffa: it has a Liaison and Operational Support Detachment, which was established in 2015 after the outbreak of military operations against Boko Haram by MNJTF. Operation Barkhane has also a Coordination and Liaison Unit in Diffa, which serves for coordination of intelligence with states involved in the MNJTF.
- Tillaberi: the French Operational Support Detachment there is tasked with countering the growing jihadist threat in the region. It conducts joint patrols in the region along with the Nigerien Armed Forces. The Operational Joint General Staff is one of the most ambitious regional cooperation initiatives. It was created in 2010, and includes Algeria, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger. It is based in Tamanrasset, in the Algerian desert and serves as a platform to organize joint counter-terrorism operations. This operation however has never been fully realized.

The Multinational Joint Task Force



Source: MNJTF.org

The Multinational Joint Task Force, an African Union authorized mission, is mandated to eliminate Boko Haram in order to create a safe and secure environment and facilitate the stabilization in the areas affected by the activities of Boko Haram and other terrorist groups, by using all the necessary means within its capacity. Its mandate includes:

- The creation of a safe and secure environment in the areas affected by the activities of Boko Haram and

other terrorist groups, in order to significantly reduce violence against civilians and other abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence, in full compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law and the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP)

- Facilitate the implementation of overall stabilization programs by the LCBC Member States and Benin in the affected areas, including the full restoration of state authority and the return of IDPs and refugees
- Facilitate, within the limit of its capabilities, humanitarian operations and the delivery of assistance to the affected populations.

The MNJTF is made up of four Sectors deployed as follows:

Sector 1: corresponds to the Cameroonian Brigade of the Multinational Joint Task Force and includes the 4th Joint Military Region. It is subdivided into sub sectors with Headquarters in Mora. The Sector is commanded by Brigadier General Bouba Dobekreo.

Sector 2: corresponds to the Chadian Brigade of the Multinational Joint Task Force which equally corresponds to the 4th Military Regiment of Chad. It is subdivided into two Sub-sectors with headquarters in Bagasola. It is commanded by Brigadier General Yaya Siro.

Sector 3: covers the Nigerian 7 brigade based in Baga. It is subdivided into 4 main sections that correspond to 4 battalions and covers the Extreme North Eastern part of Nigeria. It is commanded by Brigadier General GM MUTKUT.

Sector 4: corresponds to the 5th Military Regiment of Niger and covers the Extreme South Eastern part of Niger along the Koumadougou-Yobe. The headquarters is in DIFFA. It is commanded by Brigadier General NOUKAWA.

Sahel/Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel

G5 Sahel is an institutional framework for coordination in development policies and security matters in central Africa. In January 2017, under the G5 Sahel umbrella, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger decided to pool resources together and establish a combined security force to fight terrorism and cross-border organized crime in the Liptako-Gourma region. In the same year, during a presidential summit, the G5 Sahel countries

declared their intention to create a regional force, similar to MNJTF. France was strongly supportive and in June 2017, requested the UNSC to approve the deployment of a counterterrorism task force consisting of 10.000 soldiers to G5 Sahel. The reluctance of the UK and the US resulted in the adoption of a weak resolution. UNSC resolution 2359 (2017) welcomes the deployment of such force, but it does not give a UN mandate, thus the assurance of funding is missing.

International security actors

Niger has become a key partner in the fight against terrorism. French and US troops have established military bases in throughout the country to counter jihadism movements. In October 2016, Germany declared to construct a military base in Niger to support MINUSMA. Belgium and Canada provide training to military forces and Russia announced the development of military counter-terrorism cooperation with Niger. In January 2018, Italy approved an increased military presence in Libya and the deployment of up to 470 troops in Niger to combat migration and the trafficking of people toward Europe, many of whom wash up on Italian shores.

Vigilante groups

The widespread insecurity, coupled with the absence of authorities in various parts of the territory, resulted in the creation of vigilante groups. The communities threatened by Boko Haram, have created *comités de vigilance* (vigilance committees) to ensure protection, where the national forces fail to do so. The members of said committees are appointed by the village chief who shares the list of names with the authorities. The majority of the vigilant groups are armed with blunt weapons, but some, e.g. Fulani and Arab groups, possess assault rifles and carry weapons to protect their herds. The groups have no official recognition but have been accepted and provided with logistical support. However, this policy rapidly changed, and authorities are using them as informants.

Private security companies

In 2017, 150 private security companies and personnel-guarding companies have been registered at the Ministry of Interior and include companies like GED and the *Société Nigérienne de Sécurité* (SNS), both of which employ more than 1,500 people. The majority of these companies have been set up by former police or military officers for foreign clients, NGO's and diplomatic representations. Private security companies have no authorization to carry firearms but may carry non-lethal security equipment.

3.3 The Judiciary

The decades of authoritarian regime have had a negative impact on the judicial system and currently a phase of democratic development is taking place in Niger. Since the adoption 2010 constitution, interference on the judiciary by the executive has never been reported. The independence of the judiciary is reflected in the opening of legal proceedings against former PM Hama Amadou, his wife and numerous high-ranking officials accused of being involved in the international baby-smuggling racket. Art. 116 of the Nigerien Constitution states that *'the judicial power is independent of the legislative power and of the executive power. The judicial power is exercised by the Constitutional Court, the Court of Cassation, the Council of State, the Court of Accounts, and the courts and tribunals'*. And as stated in Art. 118 *'in the exercise of their functions, the magistrates are independent and are only subject to the authority of the law'*. Niger's judicial system is composed by:

- Constitutional Court: officially installed in 2013, it is the competent court in constitutional and electoral matters. The court rules on the constitutionality of laws ordinances as well as on the conformity of treaties and international agreements with the Constitution. The court has the final say on the electoral outcome and proclaims the final results of the elections. It comprises seven members of at least forty years old, appointed for a term of six years by decree of the President of the Republic, renewed by one third every two years. Their mandate is not renewable. The President of the Constitutional Court

is elected by his peers for a renewable term of three years.

- The Court of Cassation is the highest court of the Republic in judicial matters.
- The Council of State: is the highest court in administrative matters. It has the last say in actions for abuse of powers and appeals for interpretation and assessment of the legality of administrative acts.
- Court of Accounts: composed by 16 magistrates, it is the high court of audit of public finances. It has jurisdiction, control and advisory powers.
- High Court of Justice: tries crimes and misdemeanors committed by government officials in the exercise of their office. It is composed of seven deputies elected from within the National Assembly on a provisional basis.

Current situation

The Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court often rule against executive decisions; however, the rulings are often ignored. Moreover, high-ranking politicians are rarely subject to judicial action, and if and when they are subject to investigation, cases are delayed or abandoned. Although the improvements in Nigerien judicial system, it still faces several challenges: courts of lower level are overburdened by work, under resourced and permeated by corruption. There are few registered lawyers outside the capital and the cost of legal aid is too high for the majority of the population. The judiciary is popularly perceived as ineffective. Customary courts, based on Islamic law, are widespread, and individuals do not have the same legal protections as those using the formal courts.

4. Migrations and Human Rights Issues

4.1 Internal and International Migration

International Migration

Niger is one of the least developed countries in the world, with the poorest socio-economic and development indicators and the highest demographic growth. It is characterised by a negative net migration rate of -0.3 migrants/1,000 people, and emigrants' yearly remittances amount to 2.3% of the GDP. Instability in neighbouring countries (notably Mali, Libya and Nigeria), internal conflict in certain regions of Niger, periodic drought and flooding and the establishment of the ECOWAS free movement area are all factors shaping the migratory movements that affect Niger as both a country of origin, transit and destination of migrants.

Niger is mainly known as a country of transit for migratory flows from West Africa towards Libya and Algeria, and then, for some, further to the Mediterranean. Between February and June 2016, the International Organisation for Migrations (IOM) observed over 300,000 persons leaving Niger towards (mainly) Libya and Algeria. IOM's assessments show that the migrants are generally young men who migrate for economic reasons and originate from Senegal, Nigeria, the Gambia, Mali and other West-African countries. All these countries belong to the ECOWAS and the migrants are thus entitled to freely travel and stay in Niger, as long as they have at least a national ID, which is generally the case. Other countries of origin, frequently observed in Niger, such as Cameroon and Chad, have bilateral agreements with Niger, granting the same freedom of movement for their mutual citizens. Nigerien authorities are powerless to return these migrants when identified attempting to cross illegally into Libya. In the absence of possibilities for voluntary return many remain stranded in Niger with no other choice than trying to earn enough to pay for the continuation of the trip. For more than 90% of the migrants assisted by IOM, both Nigeriens and of other nationalities, the willingness to improve their living conditions and to seek better professional opportunities are the main reasons for deciding to migrate. Those migrants who make it to Libya and Algeria often face difficult conditions, remain stranded or even become victims of abusive treatment or trafficking, often committed by private individuals. The trend is overall rising, as since 2015 100,000 to 120,000 migrants have been estimated to have transited Niger, according to the authorities.

Although Niger is considered as relatively stable, population displacement and the continued growth of migrant ghettos in hot spots along the migratory routes increase pressure on already

limited resources such as food and land, and could pose a threat to the fragile security balance in northern Niger. The activities of transnational criminal and terrorist organisations (AQIM, MUJAO, Al-Sharia, Boko Haram, Al-Mulathameen Brigades) also contribute to this insecurity. At the same time, migration has become a considerable source of economic development for towns along the migratory road in Niger, accommodation and services provided to migrants being often the only sources of income for households in those regions. The anti-smuggling law adopted by the Government of Niger in May 2016 does foresee prosecution of smuggling activities, but considerable efforts are still needed to inform and sensitise the population as well as various government agencies on the contents and meanings of this law, and to adopt all regulatory and administrative acts for its implementation.

Internal Displacement

Although mainly known for its role in international migrant routes, Niger is also characterised by a growing number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). 242,000 displaced people were in Niger in 2017 only in the Diffa region, mainly because of Boko Haram's activity. The conflict triggered 5,800 new displacements only in the first half of 2017. Like its neighbours, Niger has suffered Boko Haram's violence since 2014, and the group's attacks have triggered mass population movements, particularly in the southern region of Diffa, which shares a border with Nigeria. Compared with the other Lake Chad countries, there has been relatively little internal displacement associated with conflict in Niger, but the country is thought to host 50% of all Nigerian refugees. It must be taken into account that movement data is more limited in its reliability and scope. There was an increase in attacks targeting civilians in the first half of 2017. There has been an increase in suicide attacks, including one in the Kablewa displacement camp at the end of June 2017. Boko Haram has also set up a base on abandoned Lake Chad islands within Niger's borders. These developments are likely to heighten tensions further, particularly between host communities and displaced people, who are now seen as a potential security threat. Attacks also led IDPs and refugees to stray outside camps and onto farmland.

Natural disasters regularly displace a number of Nigeriens every year. One of the most recent major events was a series of summer floods in 2016, which displaced overall 46,000 people.

4.2 Human Rights Situation

Ratified human rights instruments

Niger is a party to most core international human rights instruments, including: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Capital punishment is not abolished, but it has not been applied for the last 10 years. Despite the country's efforts, Niger is still struggling to ensure respect and enforcement of many human rights.

Slavery, women's and children's rights

Slavery continues to exist in some ethnic communities in Niger where people are born into slavery, resulting in generations being owned by and at the entire disposal of their masters. The diffusion of slavery is difficult to estimate, however, since it is hidden and practised in closed family circles. Children born to slaves inherit slave status. They belong to their master, who decides their fate – including regarding schooling – and can even separate them from their parents. Former slaves and descendants of former slaves remain tied to the masters and face social exclusion and violations of their human rights, including widespread descent-based discrimination. While slavery is mainly diffused among nomadic groups in the North, this so-called “passive slavery” exists especially among sedentary groups. Another practice related to slavery is the *wahaya*, which involves the purchase of one or more girls, usually of slave descent, under the guise of a wife. She does housework and is at the master's service. The master can, at any time, have sexual relations with her while the *wahaya* is often subjected to additional forms of abuse and violence from the wives of the household, who see her as a competitor.

Women are the object of various human rights violations. Displaced women and girls are at risk of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as child marriage, forced marriage, trafficking in persons, forced prostitution and abduction by terrorist groups for use in suicide bombings and sexual slavery. The prohibition of direct and indirect discrimination against women is rarely visibly implemented; a further difficulty comes from Nigerien law, which gives precedence to the application of customary law over civil law in most personal status matters, including marriage, divorce, direct descent, inheritance, settlement of assets and wills and property ownership, adversely affecting women and girls. No time frame is envisaged for repealing this and other discriminatory legislation, including provisions in the Civil Code regulating, inter alia, the matrimonial home, the status of head of household and paternal power, the legal capacity of married women, remarriage, the exercise of guardianship over children and the distribution of

marital assets. Moreover, no independent mechanism exists with a mandate to investigate all allegations of gender-based violence and other rights violations against women and girls by security forces and terrorist groups.

Children's basic human rights are often violated as well. Niger has the highest proportion of child marriage in the world: about 75% of girls under 18 are married. Child marriage is more frequent in southern regions and among girls who are the least educated, poorest and living in rural areas. Also, presence of child labour in Niger is still relevant and children are engaged in the worst forms of child labour, particularly in agriculture and domestic work and to some extent in artisanal gold mines and quarries and salt and gypsum mines. According to the 2009 national survey on child labour in Niger, an estimated 50.4% of children between the ages of 5 and 17 are economically active, with child labour more significant in rural areas and among girls.

Armed conflict

Armed groups including Boko Haram continue to carry out attacks in the Diffa, Mainé-Soroa, Tillabéry and Bosso regions, producing a violent context in which basic human rights are not endangered on both sides. At least 30 people, including civilians, were killed in 2017 and others wounded; over 60 people were abducted. In June, suspected Boko Haram members killed nine people and abducted 37 women in the region of Nguigmi. The trial of 700 people accused of supporting Boko Haram began on 2 March. Most had been arrested in the Diffa region since 2013, although some had been detained since 2012. Among them were Nigerians, including refugees from areas affected by Boko Haram. The Nigerien military reaction often risks producing civilian casualties as well: in July 13 people, including two Niger nationals and 11 Nigerian nationals, were killed by Niger soldiers in a village near Abada on the Nigeria border, when they were mistaken for members of an armed group.

Freedom of expression and association

Hundreds of people, including prisoners of conscience, are often arrested and prosecuted for exercising their rights to expression and association. Charges may fall upon journalists, trade union members, students and protesters.

In 2017 at least 300 students, including board members of the Niger Union of Students, were arrested throughout the country, detained for a few days and released without charge for participating in a protest and blocking traffic. In April security forces used excessive force to repress a student protest in Niamey, the capital, against the suspension of bursary payments and new age restrictions on welfare payments. One student, Mala Bagallé, was killed after being shot in the back with a tear gas canister, and dozens were wounded. In July 43 members of the teachers' union SYNACEB were convicted of disrupting public safety and inciting a riot, after they boycotted substitute teacher evaluations. They spent more than 15 days in detention and were sentenced to suspended prison terms of between one and three months.

Various episodes involved journalists and opposition parties' leaders and members. In April 2017 Baba Alpha, an outspoken journalist working for private television channel Bonferey, and his father, who was born in Mali, were arrested and charged with forgery and illegal status. In July they were sentenced to two years' imprisonment. In May Insar Abdourahmane, a member of the Association of Action for Democracy and Human Rights, was arrested and detained for more than 20 days in Agadez town for criticising the authorities on Facebook. He was given a six-month suspended prison sentence for inciting violence. In the same month Amadou Ali Djibo, leader of the opposition coalition Front for the Restoration of Democracy and the Defence of the Republic, was convicted of inciting revolt and, after 11 days' detention, was given a 90-day conditional suspended sentence. Finally, in June Ibrahim Bana, a member of opposition party Moden Fa Lumana, and Gamatié Mahamadou Yansambou, Secretary General of the Union of Taxi Drivers, were arrested and charged for attempting to influence a judicial investigation after they denounced, on social media, corruption in the judicial system.

Economic, social and cultural rights

Most Nigeriens are affected by poverty or by severe economic difficulties. 45.7% of them live with less than 1.90 US\$ a day; 77.5% with less than 3.20 US\$; and 93.9% with less than 5.50\$ a day. Women are particularly affected by food insecurity in

rural areas, a fact linked to, among other things, their socioeconomic status and the impact of climate change and extractive industries. Temporary measures to achieve greater gender equality are inadequately applied, including in employment, education and health. As the humanitarian situation deteriorates due to conflict, the UN estimates that more than 2 million people, including 408,000 in Diffa, are in need of humanitarian assistance, with 1.8 million estimated to be affected by severe food insecurity. Over 73% of children under five and almost 46% of women of reproductive age suffer from anaemia.

Refugees' and migrants' rights

Over 60,000 refugees and migrants transited Niger on the way to Libya and Algeria in 2017. There they face serious abuses including rape, unlawful detention in harsh conditions, ill-treatment and extortion. Unknown numbers have died, as operations to arrest perpetrators have pushed smugglers to use more dangerous routes to Libya or Algeria. In May eight migrants from Niger, including five children, died of thirst after they were abandoned on the way to Algeria; and 92 migrants were found close to death by the Niger Army after being beaten and abandoned by their driver in the desert near Bilma in the north. In June, 44 migrants, including babies, were found dead in the desert near Agadez, central Niger, after their vehicle broke down on the way to Libya.

5. The UN and Niger

5.1 UN and Niger

Niger has been a member of the UN since 20 September 1960. The United Nations have provided support for the country's development through its organization, funds and specialized institutions. Currently, there are both resident (including Bretton Woods institutions) and non-resident agencies from within the UN system operating in Niger. These agencies are interlinked, with the resident coordinator for development, human rights, and the consolidation of peace and the humanitarian coordinator for humanitarian assistance at the center of the system. These coordinators are responsible for improving interagency cooperation and mission coherence as well as the impact of operational activities on a national level. They are also responsible for ensuring coherence between humanitarian action and the development of the UN agenda.

Cooperation for development

The UN operates in Niger through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which aims at coordinating and consolidating interventions, improving the effectiveness of the work and respond to priorities. UNDAF is the coordinated and integrated response of the UN to the priorities defined by Niger for achieving its development goals and the Millennium Development Goals. The Country Team leads the development of UNDAF through a participatory process, in close collaboration with the Government, and various stakeholders, e.g. civil society and private sector.

The UN concentrates its efforts in three areas of cooperation:

- *Building community resilience*
The UN action aims at increasing the resilience of communities affected by the unstable security environment. It provides support for national, regional and local institutions to use appropriate systems and mechanism for disaster/risk prevention and management.
- *Social development and promotion of human capital*
The UN aims at ensuring a greater use of basic social services including social protection systems and population growth control.
- *Governance, peace and security*
The UN works to consolidate the rule of law and ensure the principles of good governance, supporting national and local institutions and communities in guaranteeing security.

Although Niger is a stable country, it is surrounded by conflict-affected countries, thus there are several UN agencies working in order to ensure Niger's stability.



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has been present in Niger since 1977. In 2013, the Government of Niger and UNDP agreed on a new five-year cooperation framework (2014-2018). In accordance with its mandate, UNDP is working with the Government of Niger to support the achievement of national development goals and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

UNDP's support addresses two key challenges: the capacity building of institutions and communities for the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment and greater resilience to food crises, natural disasters and the effects of climate change and the improvement of governance, peace and security.

The country program is in line with the priority areas of action identified by the Istanbul 2011-2020 Action Plan for the Least Developed Countries, to which Niger is a stakeholder. UNDP's support is at the strategic, institutional and operational levels.



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

The priority areas of the collaboration between FAO and Niger are:

- Strengthening resilience of the populations that are vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity;
- Increase, diversify and promote the agricultural, livestock, forestry and fisheries productions;
- Establishment of an institutional and political environment in favor of the agricultural development together with food and nutrition security.



Niger agreed to IAEA's Country Program Framework for the period of 2016-2021. The program is the frame of reference for the medium-term planning of technical cooperation between Niger and IAEA and identifies priority areas where the transfer of nuclear technology and technical cooperation resources will be directed to support national development goals. The Country Program Framework identified five priority areas:

- Food security
- Human health and nutrition
- Mining
- Energy
- Nuclear Safety and security



To support the national development goals, the Government and Social Partners with ILO support have identified the following priorities:

- job creation and entrepreneurship, particularly in rural areas
- elimination of child labor, particularly in its worst forms
- fostering a culture of social dialogue
- extension of social protection and occupational safety and health



The Government of Niger adopted a dedicated law to counter migrant smuggling. IOM is currently working with the government on the operationalization of the law through the development of an action plan and provision of training to law enforcement and the judiciary. In addition, IOM provides broad capacity building and expertise to the different relevant Government agencies in the different fields of migration and for the development of a comprehensive national strategy on migration. Moreover, IOM continues to provide assistance to migrants, victims of trafficking and other vulnerable migrants. It

works to strengthen cross-border cooperation, in order to efficiently fight trans-border crimes. Currently, there are five open-type transit centers for migrants in Arlit, Dirkou, Agadez and Niamey. At the same time, IOM ensures assistance and protection to migrants, assist voluntary returns, implements reintegration projects and opened orientation offices.



OCHA works with various partners including state technical services to:

- Ensure better planning and coordination of humanitarian activities.
- Coordinate efforts for resource mobilization and ensure the maintenance of the humanitarian space.
- Strengthen the capacities of the partners.
- Have greater consistency between the activities under the Humanitarian Response Plan and those of the Government Support Plan. OCHA Niger also facilitates the participation of humanitarian actors in the Government's coordination mechanisms and their access to information.

The OCHA Niger team is composed of 28 national, 8 international. This staff is divided between the country office in Niamey and the sub-offices of Diffa, Tahoua and Zinder. The regions of Dosso and Tillabéry are covered by the Niamey office while those of Agadez and Maradi are respectively covered by the Tahoua and Zinder sub-offices. OCHA ensures coverage of all areas of the country presenting a humanitarian situation that requires support for coordinating the activities of humanitarian actors.



UNFPA began support in 1983 with programs that help position family planning in national development plans and increase the quality of and access to reproductive health services. UNFPA assists with the production of demographic data, and encourages human rights norms in education, health and demography policies. The Fund's work on gender equality helps to improve laws and responses to human rights violations, as well as the greater participation of women and youth in public decision-making.



UNHCR work in Niger focuses on:

- strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships to assist the host country in providing assistance and protection to IDPs, and
- strengthening refugee self-reliance.

Emphasis is placed on working with authorities at the national and local levels to facilitate the progressive socio-economic inclusion of refugees and IDPs, and utilizing the productive capacities of refugees and IDPs by helping them to access education, housing, land, livelihoods, and services.



UNIDO has currently three ongoing projects in Niger:

- Creating Shared Prosperity: aims at modernizing strategic agro-value chains namely meat, milk and cowpeas in terms of preservation processing and distribution as a mean to improve food security and generate incomes
- HCFC phase-out management plan: aims to deduct 5.60 ODP tons of HCFCs from the starting point for sustained aggregate reduction in HCFC consumption
- ODS Alternatives Survey for Niger: Prepare a survey on the availability of technologies to ozone depleting substances (ODSs) in Niger.



UNICEF provides multi-sectoral responses to the crises affecting Niger and strengthen the link between humanitarian interventions and resilience-building programs, particularly in the Diffa region. UNICEF's 2018 program targets are:

- Nutrition: 380,166 children under 5 with SAM admitted for treatment
- Health: 103,500 children under 5 accessing lifesaving interventions through fixed and mobile strategies and 71,732 children aged 6 months to 14 years vaccinated against measles
- WASH: 160,400 people affected by population movements and natural disasters having access to drinking water and 200,000 people affected by water-borne disease outbreaks having access to hygiene kits and sensitization activities

- Child protection: 38,136 children provided with psychosocial support through community-based recreational and socio-educational activities
- Education: 95,611 girls and boys aged 3 to 17 years provided with access to formal and non-formal education
- NFI kit: 140,000 people affected by conflict or natural disasters provided with non-food items kits



UNODC operates in Niger through its Regional Program for West Africa in the fight against all forms of transnational crime and terrorism. UNODC mandate is a very large one and encompasses a lot of issues that currently affect the region. For this reason, the RP is divided into five different pillars:

- Strengthening criminal justice systems,
- Preventing and countering transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking,
- Preventing and countering terrorism,
- Preventing and countering corruption,
- Improving drug and HIV prevention, treatment and care.



UN Women in Niger develops partnerships to achieve sustainable social change in the following areas:

- Governance and Decentralization;
- Economic development;
- Gender responsive budgeting;
- Fight against violence against women
- Women empowerment;
- National strategies and programs;
- Promotion of women's rights



The World Food Program operates in Niger through a variety of projects:

- Climate sensitive livelihoods and asset creation: WFP helps the poorest build livelihoods through its community-based asset creation program. In exchange for food assistance, beneficiaries create assets, by regenerating land or rehabilitating ponds.
- Support for smallholder farmers: Using its purchasing power to buy from local smallholder farmers, WFP effectively links agricultural recovery programs with its own food and nutritional assistance interventions.
- Nutrition: WFP's nutrition program involves a comprehensive, community-based lifecycle approach, by supporting the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition, prevention of malnutrition and integration of micronutrient.
- School meals: WFP collaborates with the ministry of Education to design, implement and build capacity to deliver school meal programs.
- Emergency preparedness and response: WFP provides life-saving food assistance and nutrition support to crisis and shock affected populations, including IDPs, refugees and host communities.
- Capacity development and strategic partnership: supports capacity development to achieve the Zero Hunger Goal. This combines supporting Zero Hunger governance and response capacities.



**World Health
Organization**

The WHO focuses on 5 priorities areas in Niger:

- Communicable diseases: WHO works to reduce the burden of CD, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases
- Noncommunicable diseases: to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases, including heart diseases, cancer, pneumonitis, diabetes and mental disorders through health promotion and risk reduction, prevention treatment and surveillance of NCD and their risk factors.
- Promote health at all stages of life: WHO works to improve health during pregnancy, childbirth, the neonatal period, childhood and adolescence; improve sexual and reproductive health; and enable everyone to age by remaining active and healthy, taking into account the internationally agreed determinants of health and development goals, in particular the health-related sustainable development goals.
- Health systems: Contribute to strengthening health systems with a focus on integrated service delivery; contribute to their financing for universal health coverage; strengthen human resources for health and health information systems; facilitate the transfer of technology; to promote access to affordable, quality, safe and effective health technologies, as well as health systems research.
- Preparedness, surveillance and response: Contribute to the preparedness, surveillance and effective response to outbreaks and acute public health emergencies, and to the sound management of the health aspects of humanitarian disasters to contribute to the health security.

5.2 UNOWAS



Source: UNOWAS

The UN operates in Niger through the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS). In a letter to the UN Secretary-General in 2016, the UNSC requested the Office of the Special Envoy for the Sahel (OSES) and the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) to merge into a single entity, UNOWAS.

UNOWAS works closely with the African Union, ECOWAS, the Mano River Union, Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Gulf of Guinea Commission, the G5 Sahel, as well as other regional partners to support regional solutions to cross-cutting threats to peace and security, such as terrorism and violent extremism, transnational organized crime, piracy and maritime insecurity. UNOWAS activities involve among others:

- *Supporting the Implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for Sahel (UNISS)*
The UNISS aims to support the Governments and people of the region in their efforts to address the causes of instability within a sustainable and long-term perspective. In particular, the United Nations strategy identifies specific objectives and actions under three strategic goals, namely, (a) enhancing inclusive and effective governance throughout the region;
(b) strengthening the capacity of national and regional security mechanisms to address cross-border threats;

and (c) integrating development and humanitarian interventions to build resilience. UNOWAS works closely with the countries of the Sahel and regional organizations to build support for UNISS' implementation.

- *Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime*
UNOWAS and partners conducts efforts to raise awareness of the threat to peace and stability posed by drug trafficking and organized crime in West Africa and the Sahel, including the terrorism threat — especially in the Sahel band.
- *Security Sector Reform*
SSR is a priority area in UNOWAS's conflict prevention and sustaining peace. Its SSR strategy is directed at supporting and advising ECOWAS on the one hand and ensuring that the United Nations approach to SSR in West Africa and the Sahel is harmonized on the other hand.

Moreover, it focuses also on:

- Conflict Prevention, Good Offices and Preventive Diplomacy
- Promoting Cooperation – Supporting Partners
- Support to Mano River Union
- Gender, Women, Peace and Security
- Maritime Security in Gulf of Guinea
- Human Rights, Governance and Rule of Law
- Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission

6. The EU - Niger Relations

6.1 An Important Partner

Relations between the European Union (EU) and Niger are expressed mainly in terms of development aid and more in general through internal and external policies for development, ensuring that a connection between diplomacy, defence and development is maintained. Niger is involved in many programmes and agreements, covering a wide range of sectors and domain for aid and cooperation. Among these are the Cotonou Agreement, a comprehensive partnership framework signed in 2000 between the EU and 79 developing countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific; the National Indicative Programme; the Regional Indicative Programme (RIP) for West Africa; the European Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel; and the Socio-Economic Development Programme (SEDP 2012-2015).

Economic and Trade Relations

The EU is Niger's main trading partner; their trade relations are governed through the framework of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) concluded in February 2014 between West Africa and the EU. EPAs are reciprocal preferential trade arrangements in which each party agrees to abolish restrictions on imports from the other parties for a negotiated period. Their implementation is facilitated by European financial aid and promotion of regional integration is encouraged to be included in such agreements. Negotiations for the EPA began in 2008, as the commercial component of the Cotonou Agreement proved incompatible with the regulations of the World Trade Organisation. The commercial system set out in the Cotonou Agreement was indeed incompatible with the regulations of the

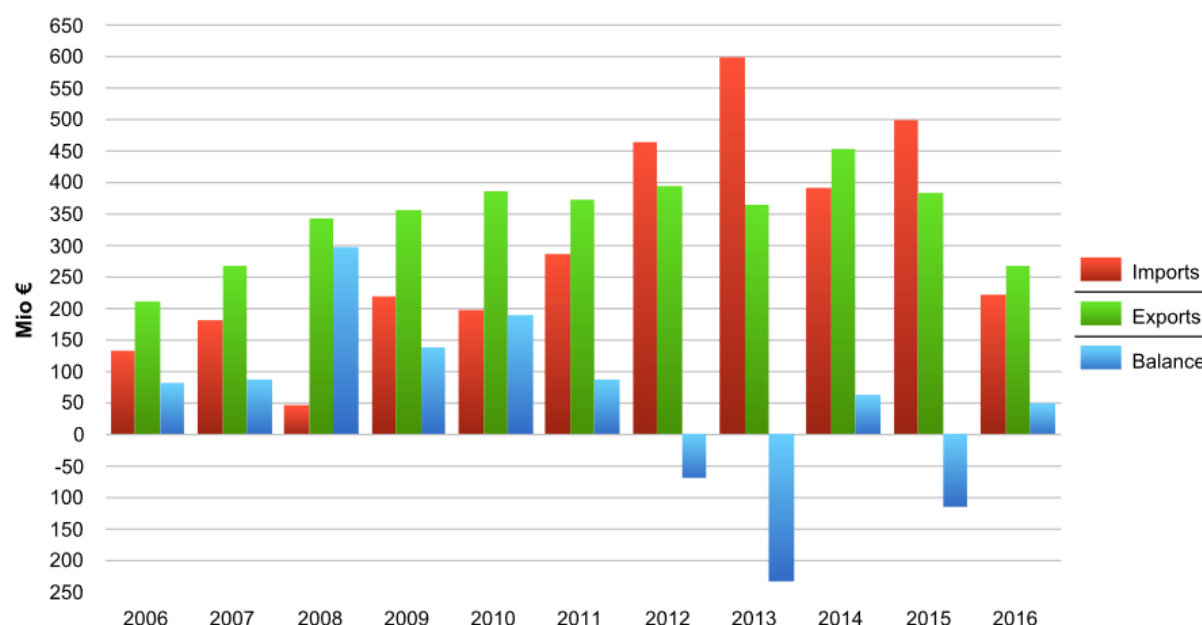
World Trade Organization (WTO), as it discriminated against developing countries which were not part of the ACP group.

The EPA has a strong pro-development approach and is backed by significant development cooperation funds. The EPA is planned to help West Africa to integrate better into the global trading system and to support investment and economic growth in the region. The agreement brings together not only 16 countries of the region but also their two regional organisations: The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA). The deal takes account of the current differences in the level of development between the two regions. While the EU opens its market completely from the first day, West Africa will remove import tariffs only partially over a 20-year transition period. In addition to this gradual and controlled liberalisation, the EPA includes a variety of safeguards which can be deployed if imports of liberalised products are increasing too quickly and jeopardise local markets. Special protection is foreseen for infant industries, and the EPA allows West Africa to take specific measures in case food security is threatened. The EPA also foresees the establishment of a high-level dialogue on agricultural policies – representing one of the most controversial issues of trade between the EU and developing countries –, creating transparency and improving coherence on agricultural matters within the region and with Europe. To support agriculture in West Africa, the EU has agreed not to subsidise exports of EU farm products to the region. Financial and technical support is also provided to help West African farmers meet the EU's sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

European Union, Trade with Niger

Total goods: EU Trade flows and balance, annual data 2006 - 2016

Source Eurostat Comext - Statistical regime 4



Source: European Commission

6.2 EU Support and Cooperation

Budgetary support

45% of Niger's budget is financed by external support, its main providers being the EU, the World Bank, the United Nations, the African Development Bank, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Denmark. The EU and the EU countries, including Germany, Spain and Italy, account for 25% of the support. Budgetary support is a major element of the cooperation between the EU and Niger. Governed by the European Development Fund (EDF), this aid has supported the macro-economic reform programme implemented by Niger's government, reforms of Niger's public finances' management and the implementation of the Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP 2012-2015) since 2013.

Development Framework

European support focuses on political, economic, financial and administrative governance; improvement of the democratic process; and promotion of human rights, democratisation, the rule of law, citizenship, decentralisation, good management of public affairs, health and education.

There are many agents dispensing European aid, including the EDF. Aid is mainly provided through the NIP (National Indicative Programme) and the RIP (Regional Indicative Programme), as well as a series of other means:

- Thematic Budget Lines;
- the long-term instrument for stability;
- EU water and energy facility initiatives;
- the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP/ EUCAP Sahel Niger Civilian Mission);
- humanitarian aid (ECHO);
- European Investment Bank's projects.

The main implementation framework for the Niger-EU cooperation strategy is set out in the 2014-2020 NIP, financed under the 11th EDF (with a total budget of €596 million scheduled for the 2014-2020 period), operating in partnership with the Nigerien state-run and non-state-run authorities. It is organised around four main components: food safety, nutrition and resilience (€180 million), improving the State's capacity to implement social policies (€200 million), security, governance and peace consolidation (€100 million) and opening up the regions affected by insecurity and the risk of conflict (€90 million). Certain activities are carried out outside the areas of focus, such as civil society support (€16 million) and the National Authorising Officer support and technical cooperation facility project (€10 million).

The scheduling of the 11th EDF conforms to that of the 2015-2016 Nigerien Social and Economic Development Plan (SEDP). The five strategic approaches taken by the SEDP include:

- establishing sustainability conditions for balanced and inclusive development;
- consolidating the credibility and effectiveness of public institutions;
- promoting food safety and sustainable agricultural development in line with the Nigerien authorities' '3N' Initiative (Nigériens Nourish Nigériens);

- supporting a competitive and diversified economy capable of bringing accelerated and inclusive growth;
- social development which includes (among other things) the health and education sectors and gender equality, access to drinking water and sanitation.

Justice and Rule of Law

The EU supports the development and implementation of the Judicial Reforms Support Programme (PARJ) through the Programme to Support Judicial Reform and the Rule of Law (PAJED). This project supports the modernisation of the Nigerien legal framework for commerce and human rights in particular. It also supports the implementation of legal reforms initiated so as to improve the smooth running of the system and bring justice closer to the population. The creation of a sector-specific policy, among the Ministry of Justice's priorities, is one of the most important projects supported by the PAJED.

In addition, with a view to improving the ability to fight organised crime and illegal trafficking, the EU has agreed since the 9th EDF to support internal security. The target groups for this support include the security forces, the criminal police and other security sector actors. This was the objective of the interim response programme of the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), aiming to reduce the risk of insecurity and support economic and social activity in several villages identified by the Nigerien authorities as priority areas in terms of security and development issues.

With regard to the aims behind the EU's Sahel strategy, this programme, which consists of 15 projects, has three specific objectives (the main project being directly implemented by the High Authority for the Consolidation of Peace). These are: to improve security in certain parts of Niger; to create opportunities for young people in connection with training, employment and the economy, cultural, sports, and leisure activities; and to promote tolerance and dialogue through the peaceful resolution of conflict.

Health

In the health sector cooperation is implemented in order to reach the government's objective to improve the national health system based on the Health Development Plan (HDP). This plan reflects Niger's right to access health through planned intervention and a number of strategic approaches. The cooperation is implemented in line with a regional policy that focuses on decentralisation through creating health districts, reorganising and reforming the health system, improving health cover and participation and the encouragement of private initiatives.

The EU intervenes mainly with regard to improving access to primary health care, providing access to reproductive and sexual health services (with the United Nations Population Fund), preventing malnutrition and improving the public health ministry, in particular the National Health Information System. The EU is also creating and transforming healthcare training. The implementation of the budget support programmes (the

multi-year support programme for poverty reduction PPARP 2009-2011 and the Good Governance and Development Contract) has helped to improve sector indicators such as free maternity and child health care. These programmes have also been responsible for the renewal of political dialogue in the region, as well as the implementation of the structural reforms contained in the HDP.

Education

A genuine sector approach has been used in the area since 2003, structured around an education sector programme (2014-2024) (PSEF – Programme Sectoriel de l'Education et de la Formation), which is the first long-term planning document for education in Niger and acts as a common frame of reference for the government and its development partners, including the EU. The aim is to ensure fairness and to improve the quality of teaching. The EU supports the implementation and development of this sector policy with global budgetary support and project-based aid. Particular attention is devoted to the viability of educational policy by providing additional financial support to the sector, offering support for the implementation of activities and contributing to the technical monitoring of PSEF developments. Improving the quality of teaching at primary level, as well as the planning and management of activities in the sector, are two major considerations for all EU interventions.

The EU also provides specific support for the implementation of an ongoing professional training and learning strategy that aims to structure a lasting national training system. It also provides institutional support for participants and for training activities benefiting artisans, apprentices and certain vulnerable categories. The EU budgetary support has substantially contributed to progress made in the primary teaching sub-sector, particularly the gross enrolment rate for girls and the completion rate. These programmes have also made it possible to revive political dialogue in the sector and to implement the structural reforms contained in the ten-year education development programme (PPDE) and the education sector programme (PSEF).

Civil Society

The EU and Niger are working to involve civil society in the development of the country as an active participant in the democratic process and as a mouthpiece for the population. The aim is to support the country's democratisation, the promotion of a favourable environment for civil society, the development of constructive and structured civil society participation and the strengthening of civil society organisations. The EU has helped to finance electoral processes in Niger, among which the 2015-2016 electoral process. The EU has also financed the improvement of the civil status register, which is the source database for electoral lists and reliable statistics.

There are different levels of intervention. The Civil Society Support Programme (PASOC I and II), with a budget of €13 million, came to an end in December 2015. It provided a way of improving the institutional environment of civil society organisations (regulation and consultation with the government), as well as the ability of civil society to play a role

as a key participant in the development and implementation of development policies at national, regional and local levels.

New directions and priorities are present in the 11th EDF (2014-2020). In addition, many projects funded under several budgetary headings (Investing in People, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and the Non-Government Participants and Local Authorities NSA-LA Support Programme) aim, among other things, to improve the rights and responsibilities of civil society within the country. The projects currently funded cover areas such as culture, citizenship, freedom of the press, quality education for children, the integration of young people and the protection and promotion of women's rights. A road map for civil society in Niger has also been drawn up jointly with civil society organisations, the EU countries, the Nigerien government, the other Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs) and the European Delegation to Niger.

Rural Development and Food Safety

Niger's Social and Economic Development Plan (SEDP 2012-2015) has become a stable frame of reference for intervention supporting the medium-term national development policy. The '3N' Initiative for food safety, nutrition and sustainable agricultural development, 'Nigériens Nourish Nigériens', which aims to strengthen national capacities for production, supply and resilience in the face of food crises and disasters, is representative of the range of initiatives adopted for agricultural development, food safety and nutrition. Working within this framework, the EU Delegation has supported Niger by preparing the country's resilience priorities for 2016-2020. The EU also supports the implementation of the Strategy for Development and Security in the Sahel-Sahara region (SDS Sahel-Niger), particularly in northern Niger. Adopted by the State of Niger, the SDS aims to provide strong economic, social and cultural development in Niger's Saharan and Sahel-Sahara regions. Within the Nigerien population, newborn babies and infants represent a specific target group for current and future projects intended to improve nutrition. The development of these activities is additional to the support provided by the ECHO. Rural hydraulics programmes supplement these activities as well, improving living conditions.

A further support programme has been funded for the 11th EDF to ensure food safety, nutrition and sustainable agricultural development. Its method of implementation is a Sector Reform Contract with accompanying direct management support. Its total cost is €203 million and its duration is 60 months (2016-2020). The general aim of the programme is to support the efforts made by the government of the Republic of Niger to eradicate poverty, promote sustainable and inclusive growth and consolidate and improve democratic and economic governance. The Sector Reform Contract aims to support sector policy objectives for food and nutrition security and sustainable agricultural development. These aim to protect the Nigerien population against hunger, guarantee them full participation in national production and improve their income, by improving Niger's national ability to produce and supply suitable food, in terms both of quantity and quality, and ensure resilience in the face of food crises and natural disasters.

Transport sector

The EU provides considerable support to the development of Nigerien transport infrastructures. The implementation of a long-term road construction programme has been under way during the 9th, 10th and 11th EDFs, for a combined total of almost €350 million, now enabling the further improvement of a third of the existing network of surfaced roads and of the institutional governance for this sector. These operations are meant to contribute to regional integration, promoting regional integration, economic and commercial exchange and access to basic social services.

Energy Sector

The EU has given priority to projects providing electricity in rural areas. Two projects in particular, funded by the Energy Facility, have been implemented and have received €3 million in funding, promoting renewable energy at community level. The Programme for Access to Energy Services in the Rural Municipality of Safo, currently under way, provides modern energy services in rural and semi-rural areas. The Sustainable Energy Programme in the Agadez and Tillabéri regions gave access to affordable and sustainable energy services for rural populations. The project also improved production by setting up community centres for processing agricultural produce,

installing a pilot photovoltaic irrigation system and holding workshops on the production and circulation of gasification boilers. Furthermore, at the end of 2015 the EU conducted a review of Niger's energy sector through the Technical Assistance Facility (TAF), planning to help Niger to draw up a currently non-existent energy policy document. Another means of assistance is the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund (AITF), subsidising infrastructures, among other States, also in Niger.

Humanitarian Aid

The European Commission is one of Niger's main lenders (oscillating around €50 million per year), providing essential emergency aid in order to meet the country's humanitarian needs. The aid includes medical support and treatment for serious diseases and the prevention and treatment of 'severe acute malnutrition' in the most vulnerable regions. The European Commission is committed to improving the provision of emergency food aid at the same time as speeding up the implementation of a free healthcare policy and laying the necessary foundations for the creation of social safety nets. Funding has been increased as a reaction to the escalating violence in North-eastern Nigeria and the Lake Chad area, thus providing emergency aid for refugees and repatriates from the Diffa region in the east of the country.

6.3 EUCAP Sahel Niger

EUCAP Sahel Niger is a civilian mission deployed to Niger on the country's request in the summer of 2012. Ms Kirsí Henriksson is currently Head of the Mission.

EUCAP Sahel Niger aims to help establish an integrated, coherent, sustainable and Human rights-based approach among the various Nigerien security actors in the fight against terrorism and organised crime. As such, the mission is designed to provide advice and training to support the Nigerien authorities in strengthening their capacities, as well as the necessary equipment. Around 130 international experts, the majority of whom are from European security forces and foreign and justice departments, are permanently deployed in Niamey.

The Mission's objectives are:

- Help Niger's security forces achieve interoperability and develop their operating strategies.
- Strengthen the Nigerien security sector's expertise in combating terrorism and organised crime.
- Improve the human resources, training and logistics management policies to ensure that the achievements made under objectives 1 and 2 can be sustained.
- Support the development of regional and international coordination in the fight against terrorism and organised crime.
- Support the security forces' capability to better control migration flows and to combat irregular migration and associated criminal activity more effectively.

The fifth objective was added after the beginning of operations. Complying with it required the Mission to increase its presence on the territory and particularly in the Agadez province, where a permanent field office has been established. The Mission also cooperates with other European Missions in the area, namely EUCAP Sahel Mali, EUBAM Libya and the EU Regional Coordination Cell for the G5 Sahel.

Action and outcomes

To implement its mandate, EUCAP Sahel Niger has focused on a number of areas:

- supporting regional commands to improve crisis management capacities and interoperability of Niger's security actors;
- strengthening local capacities to collect and share intelligence;
- improving Nigerien capacities in forensics;
- providing a full training programme for the municipal police in Agadez;
- reviewing the management of human resources; building teaching capacity at the security forces' training academies;

- ensuring that the armed forces act on a sound legal basis in their fight against terrorism and illegal trafficking.

So far, EUCAP Sahel Niger's experts have trained around 12,000 members of the country's internal security forces, armed forces and judiciary. At present, the mission focuses on training-of-trainers activities, to ensure the sustainability of its achievements. EUCAP has been also putting in place various projects to upgrade and refurbish the security forces' operational and training centres and automobile maintenance workshops. Furthermore, the Mission, together with the EU Delegation, provides the secretariat for international coordination in the security sector in Niger. As such, EUCAP facilitates the coordination of all international assistance and donations to Nigerien security actors. To increase synergies, the mission pursues joint activities with other EU programs as well as other international actors present in Niger.

The Mandate

Article 2

Objectives

In the context of the implementation of the European Union Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel, EUCAP Sahel Niger shall aim at enabling the Nigerien authorities to define and implement their own national Security Strategy. EUCAP Sahel Niger shall also aim at contributing to the development of an integrated, multidisciplinary, coherent, sustainable, and human-rights-based approach among the various Nigerien security actors in the fight against terrorism and organised crime.

Article 3

Tasks

1. In order to fulfil the objectives set out in Article 2, EUCAP Sahel Niger shall:

- (a) be ready to support the definition and implementation of a Nigerien Security Strategy while continuing advising and assisting in the implementation of the security dimension of the Nigerien Strategy for Security and Development in the North;
- (b) facilitate the coordination of regional and international projects supporting Niger in the fight against terrorism and organised crime;
- (c) strengthen the rule of law through the development of criminal investigation capacities, and in this context develop and implement adequate training programmes;
- (d) support the development of Nigerien Security and Defence Forces' sustainability;
- (e) contribute to the identification, planning and implementation of projects in the security field.

2. EUCAP Sahel Niger shall focus on the activities mentioned in paragraph 1 which contribute to improving the control of the territory of Niger, including in coordination with the Nigerien Armed Forces.

3. EUCAP Sahel Niger shall not carry out any executive function.

7. Other regional organisations and Niger

7. Other Regional Organisations and Niger

Besides the EU and the UN, Niger is also involved in international organisations at the regional level. In particular, it is a long-time member of the African Union and ECOWAS, while recently also forming the G5 Sahel with other countries of the area.

The African Union

The African Union (AU) is the descendant of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). It was founded on 9 October 1999, when the Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity issued the Sirte Declaration, calling for the establishment of an African Union. The main objectives of the OAU were to rid the continent of the remaining vestiges of colonisation and apartheid; to promote unity and solidarity among African States; to coordinate and intensify cooperation for development; to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States; to promote international cooperation within the framework of the United Nations; and to accelerate the process of integration in the continent, in order to enable it to play its rightful role in the global economy while addressing its multifaceted social, economic and political problems. The vision of the African Union is that of: “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena.”

Niger is a founding member of the African Union and contributes to its financing with a 0.2% levy on imports, established in 2016 and implemented in 2017. The levy is meant to ensure members’ funding of the Union, much underfunded under previous arrangements. Having ratified the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights, Niger is subject to the supervision of the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights, should any other State Party file a complaint against the country. It is currently one of the 15 members of the Peace and Security Council, a body tasked with preventing conflicts in the continent by conducting preventive diplomacy, supporting peace-making and peace-building operations and recommending interventions against AU States. Niger is potentially subject to a wide range of sanctions by the other Member States, should it be found non-compliant with regard to core obligations. An example was its temporary suspension from AU activities in the wake of the military coup ousting President Mahamadou Tandja.

ECOWAS

Established in 1975, ECOWAS is a 15-member regional group of West African countries. Member States are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d’Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo. ECOWAS was established in order to promote economic integration between constituting countries. Integrated economic activities revolve around industry, transport, telecommunications, energy, agriculture, natural resources, commerce, monetary and financial issues, as well as social and cultural matters.

Considerable efforts have been made in harmonising macroeconomic policies within ECOWAS towards achieving economic integration. These efforts have given rise to initiatives which currently include a roadmap for the adoption of a single currency by 2020, instruments and procedures for the monitoring and evaluation of performance and macroeconomic convergence, management of the ECOWAS Macroeconomic Database and Multilateral Surveillance System (ECOMAC) and cooperation with other regional and international institutions. Goals already reached are the implementation of the Common External Tariff (CET) and the Customs Union, as well as several joint projects in the fields of multilateral surveillance, research and youth empowerment, trade liberalisation, industrial policy, and development in the agriculture, environment, infrastructure, transport, telecommunications and energy sectors. ECOWAS citizens can currently travel visa-free in the whole region. Moreover, ECOWAS has been steadily expanding its influence over internal politics of member countries, the last example being the intervention in Gambia. Niger itself was temporarily suspended by the organisation after Tandja’s attempt to change the constitution in its favour.

G5 Sahel

The G5 Sahel (G5S) is an institutional framework for the coordination of regional cooperation in development and security policies among five Sahel countries. It was formed on 16 February 2014 at a summit in Nouakchott, Mauritania, comprising Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. G5 Sahel then adopted a convention of establishment in December 2014 and has since been permanently seated in Mauritania. The purpose of G5 Sahel is to strengthen the bond between economic development and security and together battle the threat of jihadist organizations operating in the region. Cooperation is strong between the G5 Sahel and the region’s former colonial power, France, in particular through France’s Operation Barkhane. Military cooperation is the most prominent area of action, coordinated by the respective countries’ Chiefs of Staff. Its main expression is the *Partenariat Militaire de Coopération Transfrontalière* (PMCT), designed to favour military cooperation in regaining control of borders in the area and contrasting terrorists and criminals’ mobility.

The international activism of the group is remarkable. In December 2014, the G5 Sahel, backed by the African Union, requested the UNSC to set up an international force to ‘neutralise armed groups, help national reconciliation, and establish stable democratic institutions in Libya’, which, however, was met with opposition by Algeria. In June 2017, on France’s request, the UNSC by resolution 2359 (2017) welcomed the deployment of a G5 Sahel Force throughout the territories of its contributing countries, with up to 5,000 military and police personnel, with a view to restoring peace and security in the Sahel region. The initial reluctance of the UK and US resulted in a weak mandate, thus lacking the assurance of funding.

8. Other Practical Info

8.1 Local Customs Cultural Awareness

Greetings

Greetings are extremely important in Nigerien culture. Most people will be offended if you do not greet first before beginning a conversation, even if you just want to ask a question. Also remember to always use the right hand when greeting. **Between men, a** handshake with the right hand is the most common form of greeting. Handshakes are often combined with a touching of the right hand over the heart; they tend to be warm and linger quite a bit. A handshake with the right hand is common between women as well, as is raising both hands on each side of the face, with open palms or closed fists. In certain urban areas a kiss on each cheek may be common as well. It is taboo for religiously observant Muslim men to touch women and vice-versa, so a verbal greeting or nod of acknowledgement tends to be the norm in most situations.

Social Etiquette

Niger is a Muslim country. You should respect local traditions, customs, laws and religion at all times and be aware of your actions to ensure that they do not offend, especially during the

holy month of Ramadan or if you intend to visit religious areas. Smoking and drinking alcohol should be uncommon, but they are actually widely accepted among men, being instead a dishonourable activity for women. Women's activities, particularly in rural areas, are confined to the home. Foreign women are allowed to conduct most activities without prompting disapproval; it is advisable, however, to avoid wearing clothes exposing too much of the body.

When attending meetings, try to greet everyone upon arrival in order of importance. Be on time, but expect many to be late. Engaging in small talk is always deemed appropriate, so it is better to wait for the other side to move to other issues; health and family are usually good topics to start a conversation. Business cards are given importance and are exchanged with care. Always give your card and receive the other side's one with your right hand, as the left one is considered unclean. Titles are generally the French ones: Monsieur, Madame, Mademoiselle. However, in villages and rural areas *Muche* and *Al Hadji* (*Al Hadjia* for women, meaning wealthy/respectful woman) are very common.

8.2 Medical Travel Recommendations for Niger

Medical facilities are poor, even in Niamey. Serious medical treatment would mean evacuation to Europe. Make sure you have adequate travel health insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment abroad and repatriation.

Recommended Vaccinations:

- Yellow Fever;
- Polio;
- Tetanus;
- Hepatitis A.

Malaria

Malaria is a serious and sometimes fatal disease transmitted by mosquitoes. You cannot be vaccinated against malaria. Malaria risk in Niger is high and malaria precautions are essential. Avoid mosquito bites by covering up with clothing such as long sleeves and long trousers especially after sunset, using insect repellents on exposed skin and, when necessary, sleeping under a mosquito net. Antimalarial tablets are advised. If you have been travelling in a malarious area and develop a fever seek medical attention promptly. Remember that malaria can develop even up to one year after exposure.

Diarrhoea

Diseases from food and water are the leading cause of illness in travellers. Prevention consists mainly in: “Boil it, wash it, peel it, cook it... or forget it”. Follow these tips for safe eating and drinking:

- wash your hands often with soap and water, especially before eating. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand gel (with at least 60% alcohol);

- drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes;
- make sure food is fully cooked; avoid eating fruits and vegetables unless they have been peeled or cooked.

Most episodes are self-limiting, clear up within 48 to 72 hours and do not require treatment with antibiotics. The primary goal of treating any form of diarrhoea (viral, bacterial, parasitic or non-infectious) is preventing dehydration or appropriately re-hydrating people presenting dehydration.

In particular:

- oral re-hydration solutions (ORS) or similar solutions should be used for re-hydration and absorbed in small, frequent volumes;
- an age-appropriate unrestricted diet is recommended as soon as dehydration is corrected;
- no routine laboratory tests or medications are recommended;
- anti-motility agents such as Loperamid should be considered only for adult patients who do not have a fever or bloody diarrhoea; anti-motility agents may reduce diarrhoea output and cramps, but do not accelerate cure.

AIDS/HIV

In the 2010 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic the UNAIDS/WHO Working Group estimated that around 53,000 adults aged 15 or over in Niger were living with HIV; the prevalence percentage was estimated at around 0.8% of the adult population compared to the prevalence percentage in adults in the UK of around 0.2%. You should exercise normal precautions to avoid exposure to HIV/AIDS.

8.3 Other Travel Info

Time

Time zone: West African Time (UTC+1), without seasonal changes.

Crime

Extreme poverty means that levels of crime, especially in the capital Niamey, are high. Thefts, robberies and residential break-ins can occur at any time. The main type of incident is theft. Take sensible precautions to keep important items like money, passports, jewellery and mobile phones safe. The areas around the Gaweye Hotel, National Museum and Petit Marché in Niamey are particularly prone to muggings and you should not walk alone there or cross the Kennedy Bridge on foot at any time. Walking at night is dangerous due to the lack of street lighting.

Car thieves often target off-road vehicles. Make sure car doors are locked at all times. Banditry, smuggling and other criminal activity is common in border areas, especially after dark. Bandits are thought to be operating in the border area with Nigeria south of Zinder. You should take special care and avoid crossing the border with Nigeria during the hours of darkness.

There have also been incidents of Nigeriens being killed in the course of hold-ups and robberies on public transport buses travelling between Tahoua and Agadez and between Agadez and Arlit.

Scams

Foreign nationals are increasingly being targeted by scams. The scams come in many forms: romance and friendship, business ventures, work and employment opportunities, and can pose great financial risk to victims. You should treat with considerable caution any requests for funds, a job offer, a business venture or a face to face meeting from someone you have been in correspondence with over the internet who lives in West Africa.

Local travel

Travel around Niger can be difficult, and conditions are poor for overland travel. You should take all necessary safety precautions, especially outside of main urban areas, have confidence in your security arrangements and maintain a high level of vigilance. Avoid all travel between towns at night. Seek local advice and use local travel agents and guides when travelling outside main towns and in desert areas. An approved local travel agent can arrange all the necessary permits for your journey and leave details of your itinerary with the local authorities. Travel in convoy and carry an independent satellite phone when travelling off the beaten track. You should prepare well in advance and make sure you have a sufficient supply of drinking water and food.

Local authorities are extremely sensitive about foreigners travelling out of Tahoua to other parts of Niger in the east and the north. There is a risk of arrest and deportation for even enquiring about travel to Agadez, given the security situation in that region. The MNJ armed group has launched attacks in the north including the use of land mines, and Islamist terrorist

groups have recently launched attacks in Agadez, Arlit and against a prison in Niamey. The Governor of the city of Agadez has banned vehicles without a security forces escort from leaving the city after 4pm. Attacks against tourists are known to take place at El Meki between Agadez and Timia. The Aïr and Ténéré regions are particularly prone to attacks. From 28 November 2014, a curfew has been implemented in the whole of the Diffa region prohibiting the movement of motorised vehicles from 8pm to 6am.

President Issoufou declared a state of emergency on 3 March 2017 in the Diffa region, in Ouallam, Ayorou, Bankilare, Abala and Banibongou (Tillabéri region) and Tassara and Tillia (Tahoua region). This was in response to an escalation in terrorist attacks, especially in the region of Tillabéri near the border area between Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. On 16 June 2017, the government extended the state of emergency to include the regions of Diffa, Tillabery and Tahoua in their entirety.

The roads listed below in northern Niger are permanently closed to tourists, except with special authorisation:

- Chirfa (Djado) / Djanet (Algeria)
- Achouloma (north Djado) / Salvador Pass (Libya)
- Adrar Bous (north Aïr) / Djanet (Algeria)
- Adrar Bous (north Aïr) / In Azawa (Algeria)
- Agadez / Arlit / Iferouane
- Agadez / Tahoua

Road Travel

European national driving licences are not valid. If you plan to drive in Niger, you should get an International Driving Permit. This is valid for 3 months, after which you will need to get a Niger licence. You should carry car registration documents with you at all times.

The main roads between Niamey and other large towns are generally satisfactory by African standards, but some roads are pot-holed. Driving standards are poor. Vehicles are often poorly lit at night and there is little street lighting. There have been reports of land mines being used in Burkina Faso on the road between Ouagadougou and Niamey. Seek local advice before making this journey. Buses operate on routes between Niamey and other large towns, but distances are long and buses are prone to mechanical failure. As said before, there have also been incidents of Nigeriens being killed in the course of hold-ups and robberies. Taxis are available but are often in poor mechanical condition. Driving standards are poor. On 8 January 2008, a car drove over a landmine in Niamey, killing one person and injuring another. There have also been reports of land mines being used in Burkina Faso on the road between Ouagadougou and Niamey. Local advice should be sought before making this journey.

In the case of an accident, you should go immediately to the nearest police station to file a report: remaining on the spot risks being taken to task, sometimes violently, by the local population. Medical help in the event of an accident is likely to be limited.

Money

The official currency of Niger is the CFA Franc. Niger is a cash-based society. Credit cards are rarely accepted even in the best hotels and restaurants. There are few ATMs. Banks accept travellers' cheques. You will have to produce your passport and the receipt for the cheques from the issuing bank.

Climate

Niger, one of the hottest countries in the world, has three basic climatic zones: the Saharan desert in the north, the Sahel to the south of the desert, and the Sudan in the southwest corner. The intense heat of the Saharan zone often causes the scant rainfall

to evaporate before it hits the ground; in Bilma, in the east, annual rainfall is only 2 cm. On average, rainfall in the Air Massif is limited to a maximum of 25 cm annually, and most of it comes during a single two-month period. At Agadez, in the northern Sahel, annual rainfall averages 16.5 cm, but yearly totals often vary greatly. In the south, rainfall is higher. It averages 56 cm in Niamey, in the southern Sahel, and 87 cm in Gaya, in the Sudanese zone. The rainy season is from May through October, with most rain in July and August. In Niamey, the average maximum daily temperature fluctuates from 31° C in August to 41° C in April. Nights are cool (below 20° C) from November to February.

8.4 Radio Transmissions

The radio is not a secure means of communication as it can be listened to by practically anyone. It is useful to establish a set of simple code words, which should be known by everyone in the network. In no case should military information be transmitted.

Basic Rules

Discipline: listen before transmitting. Brevity: be brief and to the point. Rhythm: use short complete phrases that make sense. Speed: not too fast, not too slow. Volume: don't shout. Preparation: know what you are going to say before transmitting.

Prior to transmission

- Check the power source and cables to ensure there is a power supply.
- Check the antenna and cables ensuring a tight and correct connection to the radio set.
- Connect the audio accessories and check the functioning of switches.

Transmitting

- Make your message brief but precise.
- Break the message into sensible passages with pauses between.
- Make sure no-one else is transmitting at the same time.
- When transmitting maintain a high standard of articulation, normal rhythm and moderate volume. Do not shout. Hold the microphone close to your mouth.
- Avoid excessive calling and unofficial voice procedure.

Four Golden Rules

Clarity; Brevity; Security; Simplicity.

Respect these rules; your radios may be the only link to the outside world. Don't interfere with radios unless you are a trained technician. Don't use the radio like a telephone, keep transmissions short. Organize your thinking and your message before transmitting. Security matters are best dealt with by using simple code words; likewise when dealing with sensitive issues.

Procedure Words

A proword is a word or phrase, which has been given a special meaning in order to speed up the handling of messages. The only authorised prowords are listed below:

Prowords explanation:

BREAK

I now indicate a separation of the text from other portions of the message.

CORRECT

You are correct, or what you have transmitted is correct.

CORRECTION

I have made an error in this transmission. I will continue from the last correct word.

I SAY AGAIN

I am repeating my transmission again.

MESSAGE

A message follows: prepare to copy or record it.

MORE TO FOLLOW

The transmitting station has additional traffic for the receiving station.

OUT

This is the end of my transmission to you and no answer is required.

OVER

This is the end of my transmission to you and a response is expected. Go ahead transmit.

READ BACK

Repeat this entire transmission back to me exactly as received.

ROGER

I have received your last transmission satisfactorily.

SPEAK SLOWER

You are speaking too fast. Please speak slower.

STAND-BY

Do not transmit until contacted: I need extra time.

THIS IS

Give call sign, i.e. "Delta one".

WAIT

I must pause for a few seconds, please wait.

WAIT OUT

I must pause longer than a few seconds, I will return.

WILCO

I have received your signal, understand it, and will comply (do not use roger and wilco together).

WRONG

Your last transmission was incorrect the correct version was ...

Phonetics

The international phonetic alphabet listed below shall be used. Numerals shall be transmitted digit by digit except round figures such as hundreds and thousands.

Examples:

Message examples:

To give you confidence, make sure you practise using the radio before you find yourself in urgent need of using it. An example of the kind of language you must learn to use is shown right. It is an example of a radio check:

Call

Five - Two, Five - Two, this is Hotel - Three - Niner, Hotel - Three - Niner. Radio check. Over.

Reply

Hotel - Three - Niner, from Five - Two. I read you loud and clear. Over.

Call

Five - Two from Hotel - Three - Niner. Loud and clear. Over.

Reply

From Five-Two. Roger. Out.

What to do in an emergency

Call for help as follows:

emergency. emergency. emergency.

Five-two five-two. this is hotel-three-niner, hotel-three-niner. emergency. do you copy? over. (Note: emergency is repeated three times).

Wait for response and then proceed. For a lesser degree of urgency, use the word “security” instead of “emergency”. Any station hearing an “emergency” or “security” call, should immediately stop transmitting and listen out. If you need to interrupt another radio conversation wait for a pause (immediately after you hear “over”); call: break. break. this is

hotel-three-niner, hotel-three-niner. I have an emergency. please stand by.

Pause transmission and listen to ensure the other communication has ceased, then proceed with emergency call.

12 wun too;

44 fo-wer fo-wer;

90 niner zero;

136 wun three six;

500 fi-yiv hundred;

7000 seven thousand;

16000 wun six thousand;

1278 wun too seven ate;

19A wun niner alfa

CHARACTER	MORSE CODE	TELEPHONY	PHONIC (PRONUNCIATION)
A	• —	Alfa	(AL-FAH)
B	— • • •	Brao	(BRAH-VOH)
C	— • — •	Charlie	(CHAR-LEE) or (SHAR-LEE)
D	— • •	Delta	(DELL-TAH)
E	•	Echo	(ECK-OH)
F	• • — •	Foxtrot	(FOKS-TRÖT)
G	— — •	Golf	(GOLF)
H	• • • •	Hotel	(HOH-TEL)
I	• •	India	(IN-DEE-AH)
J	• — — —	Juliett	(JEW-LEE-ETT)
K	— • —	Kilo	(KEY-LOH)
L	• — • •	Lim a	(LEE-MAH)
M	— —	Mike	(MIKE)
N	— •	November	(NO-VEM-BER)
O	— — —	Oscar	(OSS-CAH)
P	• — — •	Papa	(PAH-PAH)
Q	— — • —	Quebec	(KEH-BECK)
R	• — •	Romeo	(ROW-ME-OH)
S	• • •	Sierra	(SEE-AIR-RAH)
T	—	Tango	(TANG-GO)
U	• • —	Uniform	(YOU-NEE-FORM) or (OO-NEE-FORM)
V	• • • —	Victor	(VIK-TAH)
W	• — —	Whiskey	(WISS-KEY)
X	— • • —	Xray	(ECKS-RAY)
Y	— • — —	Yankee	(YANG-KEY)
Z	— — • •	Zulu	(ZOO-LOO)
1	• — — — —	One	(WUN)
2	• • — — —	Two	(TOO)
3	• • • — —	Three	(TREE)
4	• • • • —	Four	(FOW-ER)
5	• • • • •	Five	(FIFE)
6	— • • • •	Six	(SIX)
7	— — • • •	Seven	(SEV-EN)
8	— — — • •	Eight	(AIT)
9	— — — — •	Nine	(NIN-ER)
0	— — — — —	Zero	(ZEE-RO)

9. Useful contacts

9. Useful contacts

Few embassies, consulates and delegations of international organisations are present in Niger. Email emb.niamey@maec.es

Embassies

Austrian Consulate in Niger

468, Avenue des Zarmakoy BP , 12040 Niamey, Niger
Phone +227 20 75 55 83, +227 20 75 50 91
Fax +227 20 75 50 92
Email mandelav@intnet.ne; autriche.konig@yahoo.fr

Belgian Consulate in Niger

Route du 1er Pont (à côté du Grand Hôtel), B.P. 12.014, Niamey, Niger
Phone +227 20 734 719, +227 20 733 447
Fax +227 20 733 756
Email consubel@intnet.ne

Czech Honorary Consulate in Niamey, Niger

The street is without name, the Consulate is about 500 m from the US Embassy, B.P. 11888, Niamey, Niger
Phone +227 20724288, +227 21765247, +227 20735805
Fax +227 20734986
Email Niamey@honorary.mzv.cz, zebniandou@yahoo.fr

Danish Consulate in Niger

Bureau de Coopération Danoise DANIDA B.P. 11856, Niamey, Niger
Phone +227 723948
Fax +227 735399
Email danida@intnet.ne

Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Niger

Avenue du Mounio, Angle OR 33/Rue OR 16, Dar Es Salam C1, BP 10388, Niamey, Niger
Phone +227 20 73 85 83-84
Email delegation-niger@eeas.europa.eu

French Embassy in Niamey, Niger

Route de Tondibia - Quartier Yantala, BP 10660 - 12090 Niamey, Niger
Phone +227 20 72 24 31 / 32
Fax +227 20 72 25 18
Website <http://www.ambafrance-ne.org/>
Email cad.niamey-ambassade@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Spanish Embassy in Niger

Rue de la Radio, 151, B.P. 11888, Niamey Niger
City Niamey
Phone +227 20 75 59 61 / 62 / 64

Swedish Honorary Consulate

Niamey-Poudriere, B.P. 10269, Niamey, Niger
Phone +227 (-) 74 02 07
Fax +227 (-) 74 14 88
Email souna@intnet.ne

United States Embassy in Niger

Public Affairs Section (PAS) Niamey, BP 11201, Niamey, Niger
Phone (227) 20-73-31-69 or (227) 20-72-39-41
Fax (227) 20-73-55-60
Website <http://niamey.usembassy.gov>
Email NiameyPASN@state.gov

International Organisations

International Committee of the Red Cross

Rue KK-37 Kouara Kano BP 13702, Niamey, Niger
Phone +227 20 73 93 09
Mobile +227 92 199 196

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Avenue Maurice Delens, Rue Yn-26, Porte 278, Yantala Haut, BP 10260, Niamey, Niger
Tel: +227 2075 25 07

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

2, Rue des Oasis – Quartier Ancien Plateau, Niamey, Niger
Phone +227 20 72 71 00
Fax +227 20 73 34 68
Email Niamey@unicef.org

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Quartier Issa Beri, Avenue des Zermakoyes (Maurice de Lences), BP 12 201, Niamey, Niger
Phone +227 2075 2064
Fax +227 2075 2065
Email ngrmi@unhcr-org

United Nations Development Office (UNDP)

Maison des Nations Unies, BP 11207
Phone +227 20 731 300 / +227 20 73 47 00
Fax +227 20 72 36 30
Mail registry.ne@undp.org

World Bank Country Office

187, Rue des Dallols, BP 12402, Niamey, Niger

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- IOM, www.iom.int
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- RFI, www.rfi.fr
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- United Nations, www.un.org
- UNDP, www.undp.org
- UNFPA, www.unfpa.org
- Unicef, www.unicef.org
- Unocha, www.unocha.org
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Annex

Council Decision 2012/392/CFSP as amended by Council Decision 2014/482/CFSP

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union and in particular Article 28, Article 42(4) and Article 43(2) thereof,
Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,
Whereas:

(1) On 21 March 2011, the Council welcomed the European Union Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel, underlining that the Union has a longstanding interest in reducing insecurity and improving development in the Sahel region. More recently, the intensification of terrorist actions and the consequences of the conflict in Libya have increased the urgency of protecting Union citizens and interests in the region and preventing the extension of those threats to the Union, while helping to reduce regional security threats.

(2) On 23 March 2012, the Council approved the Crisis Management Concept for a possible common security and defence policy (CSDP) civilian mission in the Sahel.

(3) On 1 June 2012, the Prime Minister of Niger addressed to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR) an invitation letter with regard to the planned CSDP mission, welcoming the Union's CSDP deployment with the aim of reinforcing the capacities of the Nigerien Security Forces, in particular to fight terrorism and organised crime in an effective, coherent and coordinated manner.

(4) The Watch-Keeping Capability should be activated for EUCAP Sahel Niger.

(5) EUCAP Sahel Niger will be conducted in the context of a situation which may deteriorate and could impede the achievement of the objectives of the Union's external action as set out in Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU),

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Mission

The Union hereby establishes a European Union CSDP mission in Niger to support the capacity building of the Nigerien security actors to fight terrorism and organised crime (EUCAP Sahel Niger).

Article 2

Objectives

In the context of the implementation of the European Union Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel, EUCAP Sahel Niger shall aim at enabling the Nigerien authorities to define and implement their own national Security Strategy. EUCAP Sahel Niger shall also aim at contributing to the development of an integrated, multidisciplinary, coherent, sustainable, and human-rights-based approach among the various Nigerien security actors in the fight against terrorism and organised crime.

Article 3

Tasks

1. In order to fulfil the objectives set out in Article 2, EUCAP Sahel Niger shall:

(a) be ready to support the definition and implementation of a Nigerien Security Strategy while continuing advising and assisting in the implementation of the security dimension of the Nigerien Strategy for Security and Development in the North;

(b) facilitate the coordination of regional and international projects supporting Niger in the fight against terrorism and organised crime;

(c) strengthen the rule of law through the development of criminal investigation capacities, and in this context develop and implement adequate training programmes;

(d) support the development of Nigerien Security and Defence Forces' sustainability;

(e) contribute to the identification, planning and implementation of projects in the security field.

2. EUCAP Sahel Niger shall focus on the activities mentioned in paragraph 1 which contribute to improving the control of the territory of Niger, including in coordination with the Nigerien Armed Forces.

3. EUCAP Sahel Niger shall not carry out any executive function.

Article 4

Chain of command and structure

1. EUCAP Sahel Niger shall have a unified chain of command as a crisis management operation.

2. EUCAP Sahel Niger shall have its Headquarters in Niamey.

3. EUCAP Sahel Niger shall be structured in accordance with its planning documents.

Article 5

Civilian Operation Commander

1. The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) Director shall be the Civilian Operation Commander for EUCAP Sahel Niger.

2. The Civilian Operation Commander, under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee (PSC) and overall authority of the HR, shall exercise command and control of EUCAP Sahel Niger at the strategic level.

3. The Civilian Operation Commander shall ensure, with regard to the conduct of operations, the proper and effective implementation of the Council's decisions as well as the PSC's decisions, including by issuing instructions at the strategic level as required to the Head of Mission and providing him with advice and technical support.

4. The Civilian Operation Commander shall report to the Council through the HR.

5. All seconded staff shall remain under the full command of the national authorities of the seconding State in accordance with national rules, or the Union institution concerned or of the European External Action Service (EEAS). Those authorities shall transfer Operational Control (OPCON) of their personnel, teams and units to the Civilian Operation Commander.

6. The Civilian Operation Commander shall have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Union's duty of care is properly discharged.

7. The Civilian Operation Commander and the Head of Union delegation in Niamey shall consult each other as required.

Article 6

Head of Mission

1. The Head of Mission shall assume responsibility for, and exercise command and control of, EUCAP Sahel Niger at theatre level and shall be directly responsible to the Civilian Operation Commander.

1a. The Head of Mission shall represent EUCAP Sahel Niger in its operations area. The Head of Mission may delegate management tasks related to staff and financial matters to staff members of EUCAP Sahel Niger under his/her overall responsibility.

2. The Head of Mission shall exercise command and control over personnel, teams and units from contributing States as assigned by the Civilian Operation Commander together with administrative and logistic responsibility including over assets, resources and information placed at the disposal of EUCAP Sahel Niger.

3. The Head of Mission shall issue instructions to all EUCAP Sahel Niger staff, including the Brussels Support Element, for the effective conduct of the EUCAP Sahel Niger in theatre, assuming its coordination and day-to-day management, and following the instructions at the strategic level of the Civilian Operation Commander.

5. The Head of Mission shall be responsible for disciplinary control over the staff. For seconded staff, disciplinary action shall be exercised by the national authority in accordance with national rules, by the Union institution concerned or by the EEAS.

6. The Head of Mission shall represent EUCAP Sahel Niger in the operations area and shall ensure appropriate visibility of EUCAP Sahel Niger.

7. The Head of Mission shall coordinate, as appropriate, with other Union actors on the ground. The Head of Mission shall, without prejudice to the chain of command, receive local political guidance from the Head of Union Delegation in Niger.

Article 7

Staff

1. EUCAP Sahel Niger shall consist primarily of staff seconded by Member States, Union institutions or the EEAS. Each Member State, Union institution, and the EEAS shall bear the costs related to any of the staff seconded by it, including travel expenses to and from the place of deployment, salaries, medical coverage and allowances other than applicable daily allowances.

2. The Member State, Union institution, or the EEAS respectively shall be responsible for answering any claims linked to the secondment from or concerning the member of staff seconded, and for bringing any action against that person.

3. International and local staff shall be recruited on a contractual basis by EUCAP Sahel Niger if the functions required cannot be provided by personnel seconded by Member States. Exceptionally, in duly justified cases, where no qualified applicants from Member States are available, nationals from participating third States may be recruited on a contractual basis, as appropriate.

4. The conditions of employment and the rights and obligations of international and local staff shall be laid down in the contracts to be concluded between EUCAP Sahel Niger and the staff member concerned.

Article 8

Status of EUCAP Sahel Niger and of its staff

The status of EUCAP Sahel Niger and its staff, including where appropriate the privileges, immunities and further guarantees necessary for the completion and smooth functioning of EUCAP Sahel Niger, shall be the subject of an agreement concluded pursuant to Article 37 TEU and in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 218 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Article 9

Political control and strategic direction

1. The PSC shall exercise, under the responsibility of the Council and of the HR, political control and strategic direction of EUCAP Sahel Niger. The Council hereby authorises the PSC to take the relevant decisions in accordance with the third paragraph of Article 38 TEU. This authorisation shall include the powers to appoint a Head of Mission, upon a proposal of the HR, and to amend the Concept of Operations Plus (CONOPS Plus) and the Operation Plan (OPLAN). The powers of decision with respect to the objectives and termination of the EUCAP Sahel Niger shall remain vested in the Council.
2. The PSC shall report to the Council at regular intervals.
3. The PSC shall receive, on a regular basis and as required, reports by the Civilian Operation Commander and the Head of Mission on issues within their areas of responsibility.

Article 10

Participation of third States

1. Without prejudice to the decision-making autonomy of the Union and its single institutional framework, third States may be invited to contribute to EUCAP Sahel Niger, provided that they bear the cost of the staff seconded by them, including salaries, all risk insurance cover, daily subsistence allowances and travel expenses to and from Niger, and that they contribute to the running costs of EUCAP Sahel Niger, as appropriate.
2. Third States contributing to EUCAP Sahel Niger shall have the same rights and obligations in terms of the day-to-day management of EUCAP Sahel Niger as Member States.
3. The Council hereby authorises the PSC to take the relevant decisions on acceptance of the proposed contributions and to establish a Committee of Contributors.
4. Detailed arrangements regarding the participation of third States shall be covered by agreements concluded in accordance with Article 37 TEU and additional technical arrangements as necessary. Where the Union and a third State conclude or have concluded an agreement establishing a framework for the participation of that third State in Union crisis-management operations, the provisions of that agreement shall apply in the context of EUCAP Sahel Niger.

Article 11

Security

1. The Civilian Operation Commander shall direct the Head of Mission's planning of security measures and ensure their proper and effective implementation by EUCAP Sahel Niger in accordance with Article 5.
2. The Head of Mission shall be responsible for the security of EUCAP Sahel Niger and for ensuring compliance with minimum security requirements applicable to EUCAP Sahel Niger, in line with the policy of the Union on the security of personnel deployed outside the Union in an operational capacity under Title V TEU, and its supporting instruments.
3. The Head of Mission shall be assisted by a Mission Security Officer (MSO), who shall report to the Head of Mission and also maintain a close functional relationship with the EEAS.
4. The EUCAP Sahel Niger staff shall undergo mandatory security training before taking up their duties, in accordance with the OPLAN. They shall also receive regular in theatre refresher training organised by the MSO.
5. The Head of Mission shall ensure the protection of EU classified information in accordance with Council Decision 2013/488/EU¹.

Article 12

Watch-Keeping Capability

The Watch-Keeping Capability shall be activated for EUCAP Sahel Niger.

Article 12a

Legal arrangements

As required in order to implement this Decision, EUCAP Sahel Niger shall have the capacity to procure services and supplies, enter into contracts and administrative arrangements, employ staff, hold bank accounts, acquire and dispose of assets, discharge its liabilities and be a party to legal proceedings.

Article 13

Financial arrangements

1. The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to EUCAP Sahel Niger for the period from 16 July 2012 to 31 October 2013 shall be EUR 8 700 000. The financial reference amount to cover the expenditure related to EUCAP Sahel Niger for the period from 1 November 2013 to 15 July 2014 shall be EUR 6 500 000. The financial reference amount to cover the expenditure related to EUCAP Sahel Niger for the period from 16 July 2014 to 15 July 2015 shall be EUR 9 155 000.
2. All expenditure shall be managed in accordance with the rules and procedures applicable to the general budget of the Union. Nationals of third States and host country nationals shall be allowed to tender for contracts. Subject to the Commission's approval, EUCAP Sahel Niger may conclude technical arrangements with Member States, the host State, participating third States and other international actors regarding the provision of equipment, services and premises to EUCAP Sahel Niger.
3. EUCAP Sahel Niger shall be responsible for the implementation of its budget. For that purpose, EUCAP Sahel Niger shall sign an agreement with the Commission.

4. Without prejudice to the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Niger on the status of the European Union mission in Niger CSDP (EUCAP Sahel Niger)², EUCAP Sahel Niger shall be responsible for any claims and obligations arising from the implementation of its mandate as of 16 July 2014, with the exception of claims relating to serious misconduct by the Head of Mission, for which he/she shall bear responsibility.

5. The implementation of the financial arrangements shall be without prejudice to the chain of command as provided for in Articles 4, 5 and 6 and the operational requirements of EUCAP Sahel Niger, including compatibility of equipment and interoperability of its teams. 6. Expenditure shall be eligible as of 16 July 2012.

Article 13a

Project Cell

1. EUCAP Sahel Niger shall have a Project Cell for identifying and implementing projects. EUCAP Sahel Niger shall, as appropriate, facilitate and provide advice on projects implemented by Member States and third States under their responsibility in areas related to EUCAP Sahel Niger and in support of its objectives.

2. EUCAP Sahel Niger shall be authorised to seek recourse to financial contributions from the Member States or third States to implement a project if that project has been identified as supplementing in a consistent manner EUCAP Sahel Niger's other actions and it is:

- (a) provided for in the budgetary impact statement relating to this Decision; or
- (b) integrated in the budgetary impact statement during the mandate of EUCAP Sahel Niger by means of an amendment to the budgetary impact statement requested by the Head of Mission. EUCAP Sahel Niger shall conclude an arrangement with contributing States, covering in particular the specific procedures for dealing with complaints from third parties concerning damage caused as a result of acts or omissions by EUCAP Sahel Niger in the use of the funds provided by those States. Under no circumstances may the contributing States hold the Union or the HR liable for acts or omissions by EUCAP Sahel Niger in the use of the funds provided by those States.

3. The PSC shall agree on the acceptance of financial contributions from third States to the Project Cell.

Article 14

Consistency of the Union's response and coordination

1. The HR shall ensure the consistency of the implementation of this Decision with the Union's external action as a whole, including the Union's development programmes.

2. Without prejudice to the chain of command, the Head of Mission shall act in close coordination with the Union's delegation in Niamey to ensure the consistency of Union action in Niger.

3. The Head of Mission shall coordinate closely with Member States' Heads of Missions present in Niger.

Article 15

Release of information

1. The HR shall be authorised to release to the third States associated with this Decision, as appropriate and in accordance with the needs of EUCAP Sahel Niger, EU classified information up to 'CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL' level generated for the purposes of EUCAP Sahel Niger, in accordance with Decision 2013/488/EU.

2. In the event of a specific and immediate operational need, the HR shall also be authorised to release to the host State any EU classified information up to 'RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED' level which are generated for the purposes of EUCAP Sahel Niger, in accordance with Decision 2011/292/EU. Arrangements between the HR and the competent authorities of the host State shall be drawn up for this purpose.

3. The HR shall be authorised to release to the third States associated with this Decision any EU non-classified documents connected with the deliberations of the Council relating to EUCAP Sahel Niger and covered by the obligation of professional secrecy pursuant to Article 6(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure³.

4. The HR may delegate the powers referred to in paragraphs 1 to 3, as well as the ability to conclude the arrangements referred to in paragraph 2 to persons placed under his/her authority, to the Civilian Operations Commander and/or to the Head of Mission.

Article 16

Entry into force and duration

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

It shall apply until 15 July 2016.

Done at Brussels, 16 July 2012.

For the Council

The President

S. ALETRARIS

(1) Council Decision 2013/488/EU of 23 September 2013 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 274, 15.10.2013, p. 1).

(2) OJ L 242, 11.9.2013, p. 2.

(3) Council Decision 2009/937/EU of 1 December 2009 adopting the Council's Rules of Procedure (OJ L 325, 11.12.2009, p. 35).