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Anticipatory Action Activation

Niger



Anticipatory Action to mitigate the impacts of flooding in Niger

In January 2026, the World Food Programme (WFP), in collaboration with the government of Niger, successfully implemented an anticipatory action (AA) activation to mitigate the forecasted impacts of flooding on lives and livelihoods of populations located in 13 municipalities that lie along the River Niger in the Dosso and Tillaberi regions.

Flooding of the River Niger can cause significant damage to the environment as well as the riverside populations as destructive flood waters may hit properties and sources of income such as cropland. These flood events typically occur during two main periods each year: i) the first peak of the flood, known as the "red crue" or "local crue", occurs from July to September during the rainy season; and ii) the second, referred to as the "Guinean crue", occurs between November/December and February when upstream surges earlier in the year reach Niger.

In Niger, the activation is coordinated by the National Anticipatory Action Technical Working Group (AATWG) and guided by the Interagency Framework for Anticipatory Actions (AA) against flood risk, which was developed and approved in December 2025. The framework brings together UN agencies (including WFP, FAO, IOM, UNICEF, and WHO) to ensure coordinated, multi-sectoral AA with the government of Niger.

In early December 2025, hydrological monitoring by the Niger River Basin Authority indicated that river levels were steadily rising along the Niger River. On 9 December, the river reached 577 cm in Niamey, signaling that the activation threshold was approaching. In anticipation, WFP requested advance financing to accelerate readiness actions should the situation deteriorate, aligned with the lessons learnt from the previous activation in 2024 and 2025.

By 26 December 2025, the readiness threshold established under the CERF AA Framework was met, and readiness funds

Key facts

Location: Gaya, Sambera, and Tanda municipalities in Dosso region, and Bitinkodji, Dargol, Dessa, Karma, Kollo, Kourtheye, N'Dounga, Namaro, Tillabéry, and Say municipalities in Tillabéry region.

Number of people supported with Early Warning Messages	83,000
Number of people supported with anticipatory cash transfers:	83,000

were released enabling WFP to begin key preparatory activities. These included the finalization of Purchase Orders for both the Financial Service Provider (Capitale Finance) and cooperating partners, as well as the development and testing of M&E tools and the training of enumerators for baseline data collection. Entering January 2026, implementation readiness intensified with the the Inter-Agency Anticipatory Action Working Group convened to coordinate operational steps across partners.

On 13 January 2026, the Niger River Basin Authority recorded river levels in Niamey reaching 604 cm, surpassing the predefined threshold to activate the interagency AAF. As part of this interagency activation, WFP implements the following actions ahead of the projected flood peak:

1. **Dissemination of early warning messages:** On 12 January, one day ahead of the official activation, the National Network of Community Radios of Niger (RERACOR) began disseminating early warning messages developed by the Government with support from WFP. The messages were broadcast in the national languages Hausa and Djerma through community radio channels, alerting at-risk communities to the imminent threat of flooding and providing guidance on precautionary measures.
2. **Distribution of multipurpose anticipatory cash transfers.** Vulnerable households will receive 40,000 CFA francs (approximately 65 USD) in line with the National Cash Working Group's recommendation for a one-month cash transfer. This support enabled households to purchase essential items, such as food and medicine, to cover their essential needs, protect their homes and move to safer places.

These anticipatory actions build on lessons learned from the flood activations implemented in the Tillabéry and Dosso regions in November 2024 and August 2025. They aim to 1) help households prepare in advance of the floods; 2) protect their livelihoods and property; and 3) strengthen their nutrition before and after the flooding. This activation has been made possible through USD 1.25 million in pre-arranged funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).