



IMPACT OF SANCTIONS ON FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS IN NIGER

Rapid Analysis Results in Tillabéry

BACKGROUND:

The humanitarian situation in Niger was already urgent prior to the July 2023 political crisis and the imposition of sanctions by the international community. [4.3 million people](#), approximately 17% of Niger's population, are in need of humanitarian assistance and [3.3 million people](#) are projected to be experiencing crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity. CARE recently conducted focus group discussions (FGD) in Tillabéry to determine how the crisis has affected food prices, livelihoods, and coping strategies for communities. Eight sex-disaggregated FGDs with 64 participants were completed at the end of August 2023 to analyze crisis impacts, especially for the most vulnerable, and to inform age, gender and disability-responsive humanitarian response in Niger.

ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF SANCTIONS ON FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS:

Women and men reported facing challenges in sustaining their eating habits in the months and weeks to come, with women and girls reporting more difficulty maintaining current consumption patterns. 75% of the women's FGDs reported that they would not be able to sustain current eating habits at all and only one all-women's group estimated their normal food consumption to continue for only 2 weeks. All 4 men's groups reported that they would all be able to maintain current eating habits, but only for approximately 30-90 days beyond survey time.

RIISING FOOD PRICES: $\frac{2}{3}$ of participants attributed the rise in food prices to the political crisis and subsequently imposed sanctions. **Maize and rice, staple items in most household diets, are reported to have increased by 75% and 28% respectively one month after the crisis.**

ECONOMIC COPING STRATEGIES: As food prices rise and accessibility to imported food items becomes more limited, communities in Tillabéry have reported paying for food on credit, prematurely selling crops, or slaughtering livestock early. These coping mechanisms have the potential to strain sustained food security as people utilize longer-term assets for immediate needs. **Women more often bore the brunt of resource loss, as focus groups named the sale of women's livestock and crops twice more than men's property.**

LOSS OF LIVELIHOODS: Over half of participants have scaled back their business activities and **43% have stopped livelihood activities altogether. 81% of the 26 people who have completely halted income-generating activities were women.**

Communities from Karma and Hamdallaye



More frequent power cuts have exacerbated chronic health conditions as water and electricity access has diminished. Community members spoke about how the lack of electricity has aggravated medical issues such as high blood pressure and diabetes for those who cannot withstand long periods of heat.

NEGATIVE COPING MECHANISMS AND INCREASING NEED: Communities reported employing negative coping strategies such as **reducing the number of meals per day, decreasing the quantity of food consumed at a meal, or consuming foods unusual to the typical diet in Tillabéry.** 27% of participants who were able to meet the basic needs of all household members before the crisis no longer feel that they can meet those needs. Female-headed households, older people, and women, men, boys, and girls without incomes were most frequently mentioned as vulnerable to negative food insecurity and livelihood impacts and in need of assistance.