



Press Release

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The Humanitarian Working Group (HWG-INGOs) is launching an emergency appeal to deal with the early lean season and soaring food prices in Niger.

Niamey, June 10, 2023: *the Humanitarian Working Group of International NGOs (HWG-INGOs) has published an advocacy note to alert the authorities and various stakeholders to the urgent need for coordinated action in the face of the coming lean season, the effects of which could further weaken vulnerable communities. This appeal is borne out of the deep concern for millions of people at risk of facing an overlap of security, health, food, nutritional and climatic crises in Niger.*

Niger continues to face high levels of food insecurity, with two million people having irregular access to safe, nutritious food in the last quarter of 2022.

According to the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2023, **4.3 million** people need humanitarian assistance, an increase of **14%** compared to 2022.

It is estimated that nearly **3.3 million people** will be food insecure between June and August 2023.

Violence against civilians and threats from non-state armed groups have forced many households and communities to move against their will to more secure areas. The presence of these internally displaced, refugee and returnee populations in host areas has significantly increased pressure on natural resources, infrastructure, and basic social services. This situation has heightened the vulnerability of displaced people and refugees, as well as host populations, through a variety of factors.

Recurrent climatic shocks (floods, insufficient and poorly distributed rainfall, loss of harvests, loss of jobs and economic alternatives, as well as loss of grazing land), which further weaken communities and foster food insecurity.

Prices of food products, particularly millet, continue to rise, at an average rate of **5-10% compared to 2021**, but within a range of **10-25%** compared to the five-year average. On markets such as those in the Tillabery and Tahoua regions, where insecurity has disrupted supply channels, average price rises vary **between 20% and 40%** compared with the five-year average.

Data shows the urgent need for an immediate response to prevent the food and nutrition crisis from worsening.

Mohammed Chikhaoui/co-coordinator-representative of the HWG believes that **"if urgent and consequent action is not taken from the beginning of June, the situation at risk is likely to deteriorate further."**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, YOU MAY CONTACT

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