Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index Africa (HANCI-Africa) - 2017

Key data for Niger

HANCI-Africa compares 45 African countries for their performance on 22 indicators of political commitment to reduce hunger and undernutrition. Country scores are calculated in relation to the political commitment of the other countries in the index.

Strong Performance

- The Government encourages varied agricultural research and extension services, and local farmer organisations are involved in setting policy priorities. The extension system is effective and properly reaches out to poor farmers. Government policies, strategies and mechanisms seek to ensure gender equity in access to extension services.
- Relative to other HANCI countries, Niger’s medium/long term national development policy (Plan de Développement Économique et Social) assigns strong importance to nutrition.
- Niger instituted a separate budget line for nutrition, enabling transparency and accountability for spending.
- Niger has introduced a multisectoral and multistakeholder policy coordination mechanism to support delivery of the National Nutrition Policy/Strategy.
- Policymakers in Niger benefit from regular nutrition surveys that are statistically representative at national level. The last survey was published in 2016-2017.
- The Government of Niger promotes complementary feeding practices and has achieved two high doses of vitamin A supplementation for 99% of children in 2015.
- In Niger, constitutional protection of the right to food and the right to social security is strong.

Areas for improvement

- Spending on agriculture (8% of public spending in 2015) is close to, yet not fully meeting government commitments set out in the African Union’s Maputo Declaration (10% of public spending).
- Niger’s spending in its health sector (4.6% of public spending in 2015) does not fully meet (15%) commitments set out in the Abuja Declaration.
- In Niger, the law gives women and men equal economic rights and equal legal access to agricultural land. However, these laws are not effectively enforced and discriminatory practices against women continue, increasing their vulnerability to hunger and undernutrition.
- Niger does not yet have a National Nutrition Policy/Strategy.
- Weak access to an improved source of drinking water (55.6% in 2015) and an improved sanitation facility (12.9% in 2015) prevents positive outcomes for hunger and nutrition in Niger.
- Social safety nets in Niger are basic and only cover few risks for a limited number of beneficiaries.
- Civil registration rates are weak (63.9% in 2012) and potentially hold back children’s access to critical public services such as health and education.

Existing rates of: Wasting: 10.3%  Stunting: 42.2%  Proportion of population underweight: 31.7%

Source: Government of Niger (SMART, 2016)
## Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index Africa (HANCI-Africa) - 2017

### Key data for Niger

### Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public spending</th>
<th>Score*</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>HRCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending ¹</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>15th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public spending on health as share of total public spending ²</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>34th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Policies

- **Access to land (security of tenure) ³**
  - Moderate
  - Year: 2016
  - Rank: Joint 34th

- **Access to agricultural research and extension services ³**
  - Strong
  - Year: 2013
  - Rank: Joint 14th

- **Civil registration system — coverage of live births**
  - 63.9%
  - Year: 2012
  - Rank: 28th

- **Functioning of social protection systems ¹**
  - Weak
  - Year: 2016
  - Rank: Joint 21st

#### Laws

- **Level of constitutional protection of the right to food ³**
  - Strong
  - Year: 2017
  - Rank: Joint 1st

- **Equality of women’s access to agricultural land (property rights) ⁴**
  - In Law, not in Practice
  - Year: 2014
  - Rank: Joint 1st

- **Equality of women’s economic rights ⁴**
  - In Law, not in Practice
  - Year: 2014
  - Rank: Joint 1st

- **Constitutional right to social security (yes/no)**
  - Yes
  - Year: 2017
  - Rank: Joint 1st

### Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public spending</th>
<th>Score*</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Separate budget for nutrition (No/Sectoral only/Yes)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Joint 1st</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Policies

- **Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children**
  - 99%
  - Year: 2015
  - Rank: Joint 2nd

- **Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)**
  - Yes
  - Year: 2010
  - Rank: Joint 1st

- **Population with access to an improved water source**
  - 55.6%
  - Year: 2015
  - Rank: 41st

- **Population with access to improved sanitation**
  - 12.9%
  - Year: 2015
  - Rank: 42nd

- **Health care visits for pregnant women**
  - 82.8%
  - Year: 2012
  - Rank: Joint 34th

- **Nutrition features in national development policy ¹**
  - Strong
  - Year: 2017-2021
  - Rank: 2nd

- **National nutrition policy/strategy (yes/no)**
  - No
  - Year: 2017
  - Rank: Joint 40th

- **Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)**
  - Yes
  - Year: 2017
  - Rank: Joint 1st

- **Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)**
  - Yes
  - Year: 2017
  - Rank: Joint 1st

- **National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)**
  - Yes
  - Year: 2016-2017
  - Rank: Joint 1st

#### Laws

- **ICMBS* Enshrined in domestic law ²**
  - Many Aspects Enshrined
  - Year: 2016
  - Rank: Joint 15th

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¹ Possible scores are: Very Weak/Weak, Moderate, Strong/Very Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries).
² Possible scores are: Not Enshrined in Law, Few/Many Aspects Enshrined, Fully enshrined.
³ International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes

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*For full details visit: [www.africa.hancindex.org](http://www.africa.hancindex.org)