Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index Africa (HANCI-Africa)

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.

Existing rates of:

- **Wasting**: 18.7%
- **Stunting**: 43%
- **Proportion of population underweight**: 37.9%

Source: Gov. of Niger (DHS and MICS, 2012)

**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 Economique et Social) assigns strong importance to nutrition.
- Niger instituted a separate budget line for nutrition, enabling transparency and accountability for spending.
- The National Nutrition Policy/Strategy identifies time bound nutrition targets and a multisectoral and multistakeholder policy coordination mechanism has been set up.
- Policymakers in Niger benefit from regular nutrition surveys that are statistically representative at national level. The last survey was published in 2012.
- The Government of Niger promotes complementary feeding practices and has achieved two high doses of vitamin A supplementation for 96% of children in 2013.

**Areas for improvement**

- Spending on agriculture (9.67% of public spending in 2013) 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 (10.3% of public spending in 2012) 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.
- Weak access to an improved source of drinking water (52.3% in 2012) and an improved sanitation facility (9% in 2012) prevents positive outcomes for hunger and nutrition in Niger.
- In Niger, constitutional protection of the right to food and the right to social security is weak.
- 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.
### 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 spending¹</td>
<td>9.67%</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public spending on health as share of total public spending¹</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Joint 20th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policies</th>
<th>Score*</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>HRCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to land (security of tenure)²</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Joint 33rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to agricultural research and extension services²</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Joint 14th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil registration system — coverage of live births</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Joint 22nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functioning of social protection systems²</td>
<td>Weak</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Joint 20th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Laws

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laws</th>
<th>Score*</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>HRCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level of constitutional protection of the right to food²</td>
<td>Weak</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Joint 18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equality of women’s access to agricultural land (property rights)³</td>
<td>In Law, not in Practice</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Joint 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equality of women’s economic rights ¹</td>
<td>In Law, not in Practice</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Joint 7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitution recognises the right to social security (yes/no)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Joint 27th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Possible scores are: Weak, Moderate, Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries).
² Possible scores are: Not Enshrined in Law, Voluntary Adoption, Fully enshrined.
³ Possible scores are: Not in Law, In Law Not in Practice, In Law & Practice

### 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>2014</td>
<td>Joint 1st</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policies</th>
<th>Score*</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Joint 15th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Joint 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population with access to an improved water source</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>39th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population with access to improved sanitation</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>45th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care visits for pregnant women</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>34th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition features in national development policy ¹</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>2012-2015</td>
<td>7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Nutrition Policy/Strategy (yes/no)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Joint 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Joint 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Joint 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Joint 1st</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<th>Year</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICMBS² Enshrined in domestic law²</td>
<td>Aspects Enshrined</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Joint 16th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Possible scores are: Weak, Moderate, Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries).
² Possible scores are: Not Enshrined in Law, Voluntary Adoption, Fully enshrined.
² International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes

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