During the year 2021, public health and health emergencies remained at the centre of public attention around the world, including in Niger. WHO continued to play a key role while strengthening its accountability towards partners and the populations that count on it.

In its 12th General Programme of Work 2015–2023, WHO has chosen to outline the challenge of improving health around the world, focusing on three strategic priorities: intervening universal health coverage; responding to health emergencies; and promoting the health of populations, while planning country’s needs of the centre of its actions.

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC)

In Niger, the average UHC service coverage reached 49.3% in 2021, up from 48.9% in 2020. WHO has assisted the Government of Niger in the development, validation and dissemination of strategic and operational documents; the implementation of strategies to ensure the continuity of basic health services; the strengthening of capacities of health personnel and health institutions; and the creation of health accounts, and programmatic reviews and evaluations.

Routine vaccination

• The country made significant progress during 2021 compared to 2019 and 2020, despite the continued spread of COVID-19.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1st dose of pentavalent vaccine</th>
<th>Completed pentavalent vaccine series</th>
<th>1st dose of vaccine against measles</th>
<th>2nd dose of vaccine against measles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>994,832</td>
<td>947,475</td>
<td>940,636</td>
<td>636,323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1,001,280</td>
<td>943,176</td>
<td>940,887</td>
<td>649,646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>1,029,195</td>
<td>970,564</td>
<td>974,492</td>
<td>700,928</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• The organization of the 2021 African Vaccination Week allowed for 3,706 zero-dose children to be vaccinated with Penta1 against the 3,774 targeted, and 5,672 children vaccinated with Penta3 against the 5,946 targeted.

FINANCING OF WHO NIGER

• The total budget for all programme activities in 2020–2022: US$43,064,195.
• Budget financed: US$31,489,900, or 73% of the total budget;
• Budget execution rate: 94% of available funds, with the balance transferred to the next biennium.

Out of all funding received during 2020–2021, US$33.9 million, or around 8%, was mobilized locally, of which US$17.2 million (or 52%) came from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) from the United States of America (US$4.5 million), and the European Union (US$6.4 million). Top contributors to WHO Niger in 2020–2021 included the United Kingdom, the World Bank, Rotary International, CERF, Germany, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the European Commission, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the USA and Canada.

WHO Niger would like to take this opportunity to thank all contributors for their trust and collaboration.
PREPARING FOR AND RESPONDING TO HEALTH EMERGENCIES

In 2021, Niger experienced four epidemics, namely, COVID-19, measles, meningitis and cholera, in addition to floods. The country was able to respond to the mobilization of all stakeholders, especially through the organization of targeted vaccination campaigns and active surveillance.

Non-COVID-19 health emergencies

- WHO provided medicines and materials for the case management of cholera, meningitis and common diseases and for responding to the impacts of flooding.
- WHO equipped the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) with a control room with a monitoring screen and ICT materials.
- 43 one-stop sites for managing TB/HIV co-infection were set up in the regions of Tillabéry, Dosso and Zinder.
- 48 new sites offering antiretroviral treatment were set up in the region of Maradi.
- More than 3,000 women in the regions of Niamey and Maradi benefited from mammography screening services for breast cancer and cervical prevention.

The COVID-19 health emergency

- Ten GeneXpert machines were provided to nine diagnostic sites in Niamey, Dosso, Maradi and Zinder.
- From 2015 to 2021, the percentage of births assisted by a skilled health attendant increased from 38.8% in 2020 to 39.3% in 2021.
- The share of polio samples received in good condition rose from 73% in 2019 to 91% in 2020 and 99% in 2021.
- The capacity of CemReS was strengthened to carry out genomic surveillance.

Key figures of the COVID-19 situation in Niger as of 31 December 2021

- 203,333 confirmed cases
- 7,405 confirmed deaths
- 275 deaths in the 14 days following positive tests
- 204 active cases
- 593 health professionals infected
- 5,926 recovered in 14 days
- 178,688 vaccinated in 14 days
- 846,897 vaccinated over 1 year of age
- 203,933 recovered in 14 days
- 10,319,338 vaccinated during 2021 against the total target of 13.9% in 2020 to 34% in 2021.
- 3,631,901 people (above one year of age) were vaccinated against cholera (first round) in three health districts of Maradi with an administrative coverage of 52%.
- The mapping of partners in the health sector;
- The evaluation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the development of the new one;
- Strengthening the capacities of officials of the Ministry of Public Health, Population and Social Affairs in the programme of “Pathway to Leadership for the Transformation of Health in Africa”.

PROMOTION OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF THE POPULATION

WHO provided support to:
- Improving the health information system;
- The reform of coordination mechanisms of the health sector of Niger;
- The mapping of partners in the health sector;
- The evaluation of the previous Health Development Plan and the development of the new one;
- The evaluation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the development of the new one;
- Strengthening the capacities of officials of the Ministry of Public Health, Population and Social Affairs in the programme of “Pathway to Leadership for the Transformation of Health in Africa”.

COUNTRY SUPPORT