



# EU-NIGER RELATIONS



## POLITICAL RELATIONS

The European Union is one of Niger's main partners. Together with its Member States, the European Union maintains regular political dialogue with Niger in order to promote democracy, the rule of law and respect for civil rights and freedoms. In Niger the European Union uses an integrated approach, aimed at strengthening security and stability and at promoting development in the long term.



Niger and the European Union cooperate closely on migration and Niger has taken important steps in creating a political framework in which migrants' rights are guaranteed, whilst tackling the problems arising from irregular migration. On the challenge of irregular migration more specifically, the European Union has promoted a global and integrated approach, which in practical terms works with both the [UN Refugee Agency](#) (UNHCR) and the [International Organization for Migration](#) (IOM), as well as with the Evacuation Transit Mechanism (ETM), which supports migrants eligible for repatriation. This has been achieved in particular through the [EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa](#) (EUTF), which, through a range of programmes and projects, targets factors in migration, its impact and its consequences.

## PEACE AND SECURITY



The impact of regional instability is an issue of major concern to both Niger and the European Union. Niger receives European Union support in the field of security, in particular through the [EUCAP Sahel Niger](#) mission, which provides training and expert advice to the Nigerien security forces, including on human rights issues.

**EUCAP Sahel Niger** is a civilian capacity building mission supporting the Nigerien security forces (police, gendarmerie, national guard) in order to build Niger's capacity to fight terrorism, organised crime and irregular migration, through advice, training and provision of equipment. The mission has a regional office in Agadez, which has been permanently staffed since April 2016. It is providing support to the Nigerien presidency of the G5, particularly in terms of operationalising the police component of the G5 Sahel Joint Force. Its mandate will run until 30 September 2020.

The European Union pays particular attention to the most unstable areas, with the aim of bringing an integrated, rapid and flexible response to those areas, supporting security efforts (including the Joint Force) with development actions which benefit local people directly and foster the restoration/maintenance of the state's presence in those regions.

## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Development cooperation with Niger is based on the national priorities defined in the Economic and Social Development Plan, and takes place within the security-development nexus. Taking account of all European funding for development cooperation, Niger is allocated in total more than **one billion euro for the 2014-2020 period.**

This EU support focuses on (i) building the state's capacity to ensure good governance, resilience and development of the country's human capital, (ii) sustainable and inclusive economic growth, job creation, the private sector, (iii) security and the fight against irregular migration and trafficking.

**Budget support** is the preferred method of supporting Niger, which has received **exceptional support** – approximately **100 million euro** each year since 2016. This budget support consists of a transfer of funds directly into the state budget, dependent upon the government adopting and implementing reforms. There is particularly strict monitoring of the conditions agreed by the EU and national authorities, within a political dialogue on the key sectors (education, health, food and nutrition security, sustainable agricultural development, security, the fight against irregular migration, justice, rule of law).



The [External Investment Plan](#) (EIP) allows innovative financial products to support investment in key strategic sectors for the country's economic development (renewable energy, access to electricity, infrastructure) and job creation. Through investment projects in Niger, **111 million euro** of European funds have allowed **726 million euro** to be raised in the form of combined loan/grant operations.

The [Emergency Trust Fund](#) is implementing 12 national programmes in Niger worth a total of **253 million euro** to support protection for migrants, orderly management of migration, job creation and economic alternatives to the irregular migration business, professional integration of young people, strengthening the resilience of local populations, and security.

## HUMANITARIAN AID



The European Union is one of the biggest humanitarian aid donors in Niger. In 2019, the European Union is continuing to provide emergency aid worth **23.15 million euro** to refugees, to displaced persons within the country and to host communities in the remote Diffa region (affected by the conflict in Nigeria) and in the west of Niger (affected by the conflict in Mali and Burkina Faso). The priority is meeting basic needs, including by providing food, health care, water, protection, education and shelter.

The EU's humanitarian response is helping to prevent and treat severe malnutrition, which is particularly acute amongst children under five. In addition, the EU is contributing to the response to recurring food security crises across the country, whilst also helping communities and authorities to better prepare for such emergency situations.