

# Oxfam in Niger

- Nearly 70% of people in Niger live on less than \$1 a day
- Niger is prone to recurrent food crises



## The situation

Niger has consistently been one of the world's poorest countries – it ranked 167th out of 170 in the Human Development Report 2010. Nearly 70% of Niger's 15 million people lives on less than \$1 a day. The country is prone to recurrent food crises and suffers from chronically high levels of food insecurity, and crisis levels of malnutrition are the norm. The food crises in 2005 and 2010 had an increasingly severe impact on poor people's lives, and more people are at risk of falling into poverty. Rural poverty levels are higher – reaching 80% – within the agro-pastoral zones of the country.

Agriculture is the basis of the country's

economy – most families rely on subsistence farming and livestock breeding for survival.

In 2012, low rainfall, poor harvests, high food prices and a lack of pasture put some 6 million people in Niger at risk of a serious food crisis.

A lack of investment in education and the Government's failure to deliver education in a universal, equitable and accountable manner continues to disadvantage the most vulnerable people in Niger. Access, quality and governance problems characterise the education system.

## In numbers\*...

**300,000**  
total people helped



Ibrahim Billi and his cousin smile with their faces painted. Their community has been involved in an Oxfam cash-for-work scheme to help increase the amount of food they are able to grow from their land.

Photo: Fatoumata Diabate

## How Oxfam is helping

We're targeting 682,000 people in response to the food crisis – with vouchers, cereal distribution, subsidised sales of food and animal feed, animal health, animal destocking, conflict prevention, meat processing and distribution, cash for work and cash transfers.

We aim to improve living conditions, reduce the risks of shocks and reduce exposure to food insecurity for poor producers in farming and pastoral zones.

We're helping increase poor producers' incomes by helping communities and authorities manage their water resources sustainably. We train livestock producers, to strengthen their economic and political power and their influence in cross border trade markets. And we help communities in agro-pastoral zones prepare for food crises, climate change, and natural disasters – with techniques such as low-cost irrigation practices and drought resistant crops.

We empower communities to claim and protect their rights to education and influence decisions that affect their lives. Oxfam and our partners are working with the government to increase children's (mainly young girls') access and retention to school. We build and rehabilitate class rooms and school latrines, provide equipment, and support teacher training.



Photo: Fatoumata Diabate

Participants from an Oxfam gardening project in Banibangou, western Tillabery, collect water from a well to water their vegetables.