



**Global  
Partnership**  
for Effective Development  
Co-operation

## Country Brief

### Niger

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## **A. Introduction and Purpose of the Brief**

This report presents the efforts to consolidate the cooperative dynamic of development by the implementation of the Busan commitments and the framework of the global partnership in Niger.

## **B. Country Context**

After a democratic transition, Niger resumed in 2011 with republican legality and democratically elected institutions. Following the elections, Niger developed its new national development strategy for the 2012-2015 period, called the Economic and Social Development Program (ESDP 2012-2015). The ESDP was presented at the Paris Round Table in November 2012 with the aim of seeking additional funding for this program from external partners. The cost of this program reached 5.421 trillion CFA, including gap funding estimated at 2.327 trillion CFA to be sought from external partners. The Round Table announced growing funds of 2481.5 trillion CFA. The ODA received by Niger in 2012 amounted to \$1,214,000 USD by providers of the development cooperation, in response to a 2013 survey monitoring the implementation of the Busan Global Partnership. In 2012, the five largest donors had contributed 89.1% of ODA Niger (World Bank, European Commission, The UN System, France, and WAEMU Nations).

The Economic and Social Development Plan (ESDP) allows the Niger in 2012-2015 to truly reconnect with the exercise of economic planning, after decades of weakening of the planning mechanism. This new development plan, which establishes the strong commitment of the government to respond effectively to major issues facing our country and for this purpose marks a profound break with the past in the field of development management and governance. This represents the single frame of reference for economic and social development in this period, both for the government and for the Technical and Financial Partners (TFP) as a unifying framework for all sectorial policies and strategies adopted by the government, and framework for dialogue with the Technical and Financial Partners. In this perspective, "the implementation of ESDP we ask, with an anticipative, proactive, and innovative attitude, to assess the products (goods and services delivered) and the levels achieving of sectorial effects of each program of ESDP.

For the Technical and Financial Partners, It will, conforming to the principles of the Busan commitments and taking lead from the Paris Declaration, carefully align their strategies and intervention programs, as well as those of ESDP, by subscribing to ESDP goals:

- 1: Sustainable development conditions and inclusive development
- 2: Consolidation of credibility and increase effectiveness of public institutions
- 3: Food security and sustainable agricultural development
- 4: competitive and diversified economy for accelerated and inclusive growth.
- 5: Promoting social development

## **C. Development cooperation and partnership framework**

Niger has an action plan for the implementation of the Paris Declaration and a Code of Conduct, dated 2007. The External Aid Coordination Unit, within the Ministry of Planning, coordinates their implementation. However, the political and institutional instability has not facilitated the implementation of these plans.

The return to constitutional legality has promoted the revitalization of the State Committee, TPFs, OECD, DAC, State, CSOs and the Private Development Association with regular meetings. In its favor, the dialogue on public policy and development effectiveness has improved considerably, as

evidenced by the consensual formation of ESDP. Moreover, in view of greater inclusiveness, TPFs (not only the OECD) are now organized under the direction of a committee chaired by the UNDP office. The committee includes the vice presidents of France and the World Bank. This committee meets regularly with the national party at the highest level.

Also, Niger has participated in the last three OECD surveys (occurring at the international level in 2006, 2008, and 2011) on the implementation of international principles on the effectiveness of aid. In 2013, Niger also participated among the pilot countries of the OECD survey and the Mutual Accountability Survey (level 7 Busan commitment) organized by the Cooperation Forum for Development (CFD) in the United Nations.

To strengthen coordination and cooperation for the implementation of the Economic and Social Development Plan, appropriate and inclusive institutional framework has been put in place to support all commitments related to development cooperation.

The government aims to update the various tools in collaboration with the technical and financial partners, including the management plans. Also, it is expected to eventually reform and adopt a strategy to improve the effectiveness of aid. Therefore, through the Ministry of Planning, the Niger government is currently reviewing the architecture of the old system. By the unification of the ruling structure, the coordination of aid at the Ministerial cabinet level, and the reorganizations of attributes of the aforesaid structure, it is possible to increase effectiveness through the coordination of development aid

#### **D. Progress in Effective Development Cooperation**

Since December 2011, with the adoption of the Busan Partnership as an international reference to cooperate for more effective development, Niger is committed to its implementation. Thus, it is an integral part of the OECD 2013 survey to measure the level of achievement of agreed commitments, but also the status of the implementation of the Busan principles at the national level. The main advances concern the following aspects:

- Appropriation and results of cooperative development
- Inclusive partnerships for development
- Transparency and accountability concerning development results

#### **Appropriation**

The principles of appropriation are on of the principles on which Niger has achieved significant progress from previous assessments. Since 2011, Niger has a strategic framework, the Economic and Social Development Plan, or ESDP 2012-2015. These tools and frameworks in the medium and long term have been formulated through a participatory process involving all development actors.

Two years after the implementation of ESDP, the government conducted a joint annual review of the State/TFPs, in accordance with the commitments made originally. The review assessed the implementation of the plan to measure resource mobilization and determine new guidelines to improve the implementation of the objectives set for this purpose. It also served as a forum for dialogue between the government and its partners.

#### **Results**

The Economic and Social Development Plan (ESDP 2012-2015) was developed and consisted of results-based management, dissemination workshops, and organizing the internalization of managing of the resulting ESDP.

ESDP has an evaluation framework based on the results obtained by the annual monitoring of the implementation of the plan. As such, each year, a results-based implementation report on ESDP is produced and validated in the annual review of performance monitoring. The exercise, in addition to improving the quality of results, may, by its participatory approach, improve inclusion by involving all development actors. Actors such as civil society, the private sector, NGO/ AD, and donors all must have information to ensure greater transparency.

To accelerate the pace of progress, Niger has done a lot in terms of building capacity in key areas and with all development actors. To this end, reforms are being made to improve the advantage in quality of these frameworks through the management of public finances and to use them as tools for planning, monitoring and evaluation of projects and programs.

### **Inclusivity**

In Niger, the inclusion of development actors has improved greatly and is a requirement in all the planning and implementation of national strategies, policies and sectors. The involvement of stakeholders is provided in the different thematic monitoring committees and the existing consultation framework.

In addition, efforts to achieve shared growth for all development actors are starting to materialize. This is the case for the improvement of public-private partnerships in development activities, but also the targeting of vulnerable populations in all policies and strategies. To make effective inclusion, the government does, under the aegis of its partners, consultations on the need for affective budgetary control based on gender to ensure the monitoring and publication of those segregated by sex to a more comprehensive use of data to inform policy decisions.

### **Transparency**

Regarding transparency, the quality of information on aid and its efficiency, Management Platform Help (PGA), established by the Ministry of Planning in 2010, is available by request but rarely used by all cooperative parties. This includes parliamentarians, civil society, and the private and public sectors. To put it online and revitalize management of this aid, the UNDP and ADB have already planned their cooperative program interventions. It is also contemplated additional work to achieve the mapping of external financing in the country with the support of USAID.

Another tool for measuring this component is the Report for Development Cooperation (RDC), the last of which was produced in 2012, while the 2014 version is still pending approval.

### **Mutual Accountability**

Niger has made progress in the area of mutual accountability. ESDP is the framework for government policy on economic and social development. It was presented to various technical and financial partners of Niger at the Round Table of Paris in November 2012. On this occasion, Niger and its partners agreed to achieve their objectives and announced their contribution. Over the past two years, the government, partners, and civil society, together, have regularly discussed progress with respect to the implementation and the objectives for effective development.

This progress has been evidenced by the establishment of state-PTF committees between the government and stakeholders in cooperative development. The annual review of ESDP also contributes to this effort by annually bringing together the development actors. However, targeted efforts are needed to increase transparency and inclusion of the peer review process and to increase the participation of the private sector, in particular.

This national mutual accountability process has an open dialogue with all stakeholders (government, civil society, private sector, and PTF) and the various existing consulting frameworks. This serves as a forum for coordination and mutual accountability and has facilitated the implementation of development activities.

## Building Blocks

The government of the Republic of Niger is a signatory to the Paris Declaration and the Busan Global Partnership agreements. It is engaged in effective cooperation for development. To implement and track these commitments, and actively participate in the global dialogue on cooperative development, it is important for Niger to include voluntary initiatives of building blocks from the Busan Global Partnership to strengthen expertise, especially with south-south cooperation and sharing of knowledge for the achievement of Busan and beyond. To this end, Niger is part of the process of the post- 2015 agenda.

The results are clear from the OECD survey on the implementation of the Busan Global Partnership for Niger:

### SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT RESULTS

N°	Indicator	Result
1	Cooperative development focuses on results that meet the priorities of developing countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The planning and implementation of actions by PTF are harmonized with the resulting framework of ESDP.</li> <li>▪ The frameworks of ESDP results are strengthened and used by development partners.</li> </ul>
2	Civil society operates in an environment, which maximizes its commitment and contribution to development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The holding of regular meetings and followed with CSOs and AD</li> <li>▪ The involvement of CSOs in the planning and implementation of ESDP through thematic committees</li> </ul>
3	Private Sector commitment and contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Existence of a framework for dialogue for the implementation of development</li> <li>▪ Progressive involvement from the private sector in the development program</li> </ul>
4	Transparency: information on cooperative development is accessible to the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Existence of a management platform using PGA</li> <li>▪ Not available online</li> <li>▪ Publication of reports on cooperative development through technical meetings and workshops</li> </ul>
5	a. Cooperative development is more predictable (annually)	▪ 125 % conducted while the forecast is 93% due to disbursement of funds, forecasts are undervalued
	b. Cooperative development is more predictable (mid-term)	▪ 74% for mid-term forecast of the 2014, 2015, and 2016 fiscal years
6	Aid is included in budgets presented for parliamentary examination.	▪ 51% achieved against 55% en 2010
7	Mutual accountability is enhanced through inclusive reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Absence of a national aid policy</li> <li>▪ Evaluation of target goals</li> <li>▪ Strong commitment and participation of non-executive actors</li> </ul>
8	Gender equality and women's empowerment	▪ Absence of a formal statement on the monitoring of assignments in relation to

N°	Indicator	Result
		gender. ▪ Existence of leadership and control of the government by the Ministry of Finance.
9	a. Quality PFM systems in developing countries	▪ 3.5 (2012), 2010 et 2007 recorded a stagnation despite efforts
	b. Use of a country PFM system	▪ A significant increase: 32% (2010) to 57% (2012)
10	Aid is distributed	▪ High level with 94% (2012) compared to 71%(2010)

## E. Development Effectiveness Agenda

As part of the mobilization of resources for effective development in 2011-2014, more than 3200 billion CFA francs have been the subject of conversations. Of a total of 2407 billion CFA announced at the roundtable, 22284 billion CFA francs have been signed to finance agreements between November 2012 and the first quarter of 2014, over 94% of targets. In terms of usage, the amounts of expenditure amounted to 524 billion CFA francs in 2013. These efforts should be seen as the result of the dynamic that the government has instilled to allow all partners in Niger to participate through an ongoing, open dialogue. This is an iterative exchange with an inclusive approach to supporting the efforts of Niger

For these dynamics of effective development, Niger intends to implement, with the technical support of its partners, strategies and tools required. :

- Finalize the reforms on the structure of aid coordination to support all national and international commitments
- Provide the means necessary for the proper functioning
- Strengthen the capacity of information about the help system and put it online
- Strengthen the framework for dialogue between and within actors (government, civil society, private TFPs)
- Develop an action plan for Busan commitments
- Develop and adopt a national policy for aid.

## F. The Global Partnership and its contribution to the development effectiveness agenda at country level

Since the Paris Declaration of 2005, the aid landscape has changed the landscape. The Busan agreements reinforce the mechanism by new guidance on the effectiveness of cooperative development and will focus its development efforts in the country. Niger is a signatory to this agreement and undertook reforms in the direction of the implantation of these commitments in the country whose contributions have impacted cooperative development on many levels.

The Global Partners should note:

- The restructuring of coordinating bodies and aid management
- The creation and revitalization for some frameworks between development actors
- The organization of and holding of regular meetings of the various committees

- Strengthening cooperative programs with partners
- Increased partner alignment with national strategies
- Improved mutual accountability through joint assessments
- Harmonization of consultation frameworks on development

The monitoring framework of global partnership records:

- The review of ESDP with a specific panel on aid coordination
- Analysis of progress on Busan commitments in Niger
- The update of the use of the current management platform
- Formulation of a national policy on aid is underway
- Formulation of national Busan commitments
- Organize and conduct joint reviews
- Progress in the implementation of sectorial programs and policies.

This dynamic was reinforced by national consultations under the post-2015 agenda, organized in May 2013, under the auspices of the UNDP and the Government of Niger, through the Ministry of Planning. They have helped to stimulate an inclusive debate on the post 2015 development agenda, namely “the future we want” to identify constraints and opportunities to enhance the effectiveness of development to promote sustainable human development.

## **G. Conclusions and recommendations**

Progress has been made, but much remains to be done to optimize practices and cooperation to ensure better ownership of Niger, as well as transparency and accountability between development actors. In particular, concerted efforts are needed between all stakeholders to enable civil society to fulfill their role as citizen control. Greater involvement of the private sector also seems necessary to exploit the growth drivers and improve the business climate.

Moreover, it seems essential to:

- Sustain and strengthen national structure in charge of coordination of aid and development effectiveness.
- Manage with a national policy and plan of action for the Busan commitments.
- Appropriately implement nation and international commitments concerning aid effectiveness.
- Make aid data more transparent for better adhesion and a appeal for effective mobilization of donors.
- Involve all stakeholders in aid coordination for better harmonization.

## **H. References**

- Cooperative Development Report RCD 2008-2010
- Cooperative Development Report RCD 2011-2012, pending approval

- ESDP 2012-2015 : [www.mpatdc.gouv.ne](http://www.mpatdc.gouv.ne)
- ESDP Implementation Report: [www.mpatdc.gouv.ne](http://www.mpatdc.gouv.ne)
- Framework for Measuring Results: [www.mpatdc.gouv.ne](http://www.mpatdc.gouv.ne)
- Document Management (ESDP, SDDCI): [www.mpatdc.gouv.ne](http://www.mpatdc.gouv.ne)