

## Advancing resilience and sustainability in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

### GCCED Fragile States Portfolio 2026

#### Niger — Dryland Resilience in the Sahel

**Snapshot:** Population ~27 million | GDP per capita ~US\$590 | Fragility context: Fragile Sahelian state  
| Region: Sahel

##### Integrated Context

Niger lies at the heart of the Sahel, where climate pressures are becoming increasingly difficult to manage. Rising temperatures, advancing desertification, and unpredictable rainfall are placing growing strain on agriculture and pastoral systems. For most households, livelihoods depend on rain-fed farming and livestock, making them highly exposed to drought, soil degradation, and seasonal shocks.

At the same time, rapid population growth is increasing pressure on already limited land and water resources. Competition over these resources is becoming more pronounced, particularly in areas where productive land is shrinking and water availability is uncertain.

Climate projections suggest that rainfall will become even less reliable, while heat stress continues to intensify. These trends are already contributing to food insecurity, displacement, and broader instability across the Sahel. In this context, building resilience in Niger is not only about adapting to climate change, but also about restoring degraded ecosystems, strengthening local livelihoods, and improving how land and water resources are managed.

##### Key Climate and Environmental Challenges

- Severe desertification and ongoing land degradation
- Heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture
- Increasing water scarcity and pressure on groundwater
- Rapid population growth and rising resource competition

##### GCCED Engagement Priorities

- Supporting dryland restoration and soil regeneration
- Promoting climate-smart and drought-resilient agriculture
- Strengthening community-based adaptation approaches
- Improving governance of land and water resources

##### Strategic Note

In Niger, climate resilience will depend on restoring the productivity of dryland ecosystems while strengthening the local systems that manage land, water, and agricultural production. Practical, community-based approaches that balance environmental recovery with livelihood needs are essential.

**SDG Alignment: 2 • 6 • 13 • 15**