

Knowledge Institutions in Africa and their development 1960-2020

Niger

Introduction

This report about the development of the knowledge institutions in Niger was made as part of the preparations for the AfricaKnows! Conference (2 December 2020- late February 2021) in Leiden, and elsewhere, see www.africaknows.eu.



Reports like these can never be complete, and there might also be mistakes. Additions and corrections are welcome! Please send those to dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl

Highlights

- 1 Niger's population increased from 2.6 million in 1950, and 3.4 million at Independence in 1960, via 8.3 million in 1990 to 24.2 million in 2020.
- 2 Adult literacy was only 16% in recent years (23% for men; 9% for women). Mean years of schooling increased from 0.7 years in 1990 to 2.0 years in 2018.
- 3 Net primary school enrolment was 65% in 2018, and net secondary school enrolment 20%. Expected years of schooling increased from 2.1 years in 1990 to 6.5 years in 2018.
- 4 The education index improved from an extremely low .082 in 1990 to .247 in 2018. For all education variables Agadez, the uranium mining area in the North was leading in the 1990-2000 period, but capital city Niamey (in the Tillabery Region) took over later. The Tahoua Region had the worst position (and sometimes Diffa). Regional inequality was high in 1990 but diminished later.
- 5 The gross enrolment rate for tertiary education was only 4.4% in 2018: a total of ca 80,000 students at Niger's higher education institutions. There were also 4,800 students abroad.
- 6 Niger has fourteen public universities and twelve private ones; there are also two think tanks known to us.
- 7 And the country has at least three museums.

Part 1: The Story

Niger's demographic and education development

The Republic of Niger is a landlocked country, located in West Africa, bordered by Mali, Algeria, Libya, Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, Benin, and Burkina Faso.

Niger was a French colony from 1902 onwards, from 1922 as part of French West Africa. The country became independent in 1960 as the 'République du Niger'.

Niger's population increased from 2.6 million in 1950, and 3,4 million in 1960, to 24.2 million in early 2020. In 1960, only 6% of the population of Niger lived in cities (only 200,000 people), while the urban population has increased to 17% or 4.0 million. Niger's largest city is its capital city Niamey on the Niger river.

Niger's life expectancy increased from 35 years for males and 36 years for females in 1960 to 62 years for males and 65 years for females currently. The median age first decreased from 16 years in 1960 to 15 years in 2020, one of the lowest in the world. In 1960 an average woman gave birth to 7.4 live-born children, which increased to 7.9 around 1985. Since then, the fertility rate is slowly decreasing and currently an average woman gives birth to 7.0 live-born children¹. This is one of the highest fertility figures in the world.



Source of the map: <https://geology.com/world/niger-map.gif>

Literacy and enrolment

Niger's adult literacy rate was only 16% in 2018 (for men 23% and for women 9%). Of the youth (15-24 years old) 851,000 males and 1,102,000 females were regarded as illiterate in

1 <https://www.worldometers.info/demographics/niger-demographics/>

2018. For the adult population as a whole these figures are 2.7 million for males and 3.5 million for females. The education situation in Niger is at the bottom of the world's education achievements.

Niger's population of primary school age children (7-12 years) is about 4.0 million children². Niger is one of the few countries in the world without compulsory primary education. Currently, 65% of the primary school age group attend primary school (girls only 60%). Children with the age to attend secondary school (13-19) are 3.5 million. 20% are attending secondary school according to the latest figures (2018): males 23% and females lagging behind at 17%. Finally, 1.8 million people are in the age category to attend tertiary education (people between 20 and 24). Gross enrolment rates for tertiary education increased from 1.4% in 2010 to 4.4% in 2018, with females only 2.6%. This means that there are 80,000 students in Niger's higher education institutions. According to Campusfrance there were 65,000 students in 2017. In addition there were 4,800 students abroad: in France, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia, in that order.

Regional differentiation of education results in Niger, 1990-2018

The information provided by the Globaldatalab about the subregional human development index, its components and its indicators (<https://globaldatalab.org/shdi>) provides data for the period between 1990 and 2018, and uses seven regions. Between 1990 and 2018 all regions experienced population growth, at least a doubling of population everywhere, but the highest growth happened in Diffa, near Chad and Northeast Nigeria. High population growth was not so much experienced in the southwest, the area of and around the capital city Niamey. The Globaldatalab provides data about the education index (one of the three indexes that together form the Human Development Index), and about two relevant indicators: mean years of schooling, showing the average education level of the adult population per region, and expected years of education, showing the expected number of years current children will attend schools. This excludes the religious, koranic schools and only deals with the official, state-based, school system.

We present the data for the years 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2018 (the latest year available at the moment). See tables 1-4 in part 2.

Education index

The education index was and is one of the lowest in the world: it improved from .082 in 1990 to .247 in 2018. In 1990 and 2000 Agadez had the best education situation (but with low figures compared to the rest of Africa, like the rest of Niger), and relatively speaking the education situation in Agadez was still good in 2018, but the region with the best education performance had shifted to Tillabery/Niamey from 2010 onwards. The education index in Tahoua was the lowest in 1990 and 2000, and almost the lowest in 2018. But the worst position had shifted to Diffa Region in the extreme Southeast after 2010. If we compare 2018 with 1990, the education situation has improved very much, with the fastest

² <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/ne>

improvements in Tahoua, and relatively slow improvements in Diffa. The regional differences in education became less pronounced, but are still considerable.

Mean years of schooling for adults

For Niger as a whole, the ‘mean years of schooling for adults’ has increased from 0.7 to 2.0 years, and both figures belong to the lowest of Africa (and the world). In 1990 and 2000 Agadez, the area around the uranium mine, was leading, but it lost that leading position in 2010 and 2018 to Tillaberry, the area of and around the capital city Niamey, and between 2000 and 2010 the situation in Agadez was even deteriorating, although it recovered between 2010 and 2018. For the period as a whole Agadez had the slowest improvements of all regions in Niger. Tahoua has always been the worst region, although relatively speaking the improvements there have been most rapid between 1990 and 2018. As a result of the different developments regional inequality (extreme in 1990) has improved .

Expected years of schooling for children

The data for ‘expected years of schooling for children’ show a strong improvement between 1990 and 2018 (from 2.1 years to 6.5 years, although also here Niger belongs to the African countries with the lowest overall results. Again, the leading position of Agadez was lost to Tillaberry/Niamey. The worst position shifted from Tahoua in 1990 and 2000 to Diffa in 2010 and 2018, an area that showed the slowest growth, while Tahoua showed the fastest growth. Regional inequality diminished.

Niger’s tertiary knowledge development

Niger currently has 26 universities or other tertiary institutions. There are 14 public ones and 12 private ones, a few of them with a religious (Islamic) background. University education only started in 1974, although a few specialized institutes of higher education existed since 1963. The number of private tertiary institutions started to grow from 2002 onwards, partly foreign initiatives supported by universities and/or foundations elsewhere, and some of them bilingual (French and English). Until recently almost all tertiary institutions in Niger were located in or near the capital city Niamey. Recently regional universities have been established elsewhere. There are also some think tanks (all in Niamey as well) and museums in Niger (more spread out in the country). The 4icu ranking of African universities only includes the biggest public university of Niger, but not among the 200 top universities of Africa. See tables 5 and 6 in part 2.

Historically the development of the number of universities is as given in the table below.

Niger’s universities and other tertiary institutions 1960 – 2020

Type	1960	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Public	0	2	5	6	6	6	7	8	14	14
Private	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	4	12
Total	0	2	5	6	6	6	10	11	18	26

Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, 4ICU (<https://www.4icu.org/ne/>), and <https://www.4icu.org/top-universities-africa/>), World Higher Education Database (https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php);

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<https://www.oreilleducampus.org/repertoire-enseignement-superieur-orientation/75-guide-orientation-niger.html>; and the websites of the institutions, if available.

Public and private universities in Niger and their regional distribution



(Public) Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey³



(Private) Université canadienne du Niger⁴

Three-quarters of all tertiary knowledge centres in Niger can be found in and around Niamey. For the private institutions Niamey dominates even more (out of thirteen private locations, there is only one outside Niamey). Recently the government of Niger made sure that all regions had at least one public university, next to the eight public tertiary knowledge institutions in Niamey.

Think tanks and other knowledge institutions in Niger

³ <https://s3.eu-north-1.amazonaws.com/images.free-apply.com/uni/gallery/lg/1056200001/2e507b8f247b6fba9a8994a237c83c957c56f098.jpg>

⁴ https://www.tamtaminfo.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/PHOTOS_EcoleCanadienne2.jpg



ICRISAT logo⁵

According to the 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report, there are four think tanks or research institutes in Niger, outside the university system, but for none of those think tanks further details have been given. So far we only found one international research institute, and one think tank, and that was recently established. See table 8 in part 2. According to UNESCO⁶ there were 800 employed researchers in the country in 2013 (17% female): 46% in higher education, 44% in (other) government positions, and 10% working for (international) NGOs/Agencies in the country.

Museums in Niger



Musée National⁷

There are only a few museums in Niger, and these are historical cultural museums, and with locations in various parts of the country. Most of Niger's heritage sites are buildings and markets at Niamey, Zinder and Agadez⁸. Since 1944 there has been a study centre for archaeologie and heritage studies, the Institut Français d'Afrique Noire in Niamey, that was merged in 1974 with the Centre Nigérien de Recherches en Sciences Humaines (CNRSH,

⁵ <https://d1519woddktzht.cloudfront.net/logos/icrisat---the-international-crops-research-institute-for-the-semi-arid-tropics-3067455c-faae-413f-8b40-8cf411cb9f52.svg>

⁶ <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/ne?theme=science-technology-and-innovation>

⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mus%C3%A9_National_Boubou_Hama

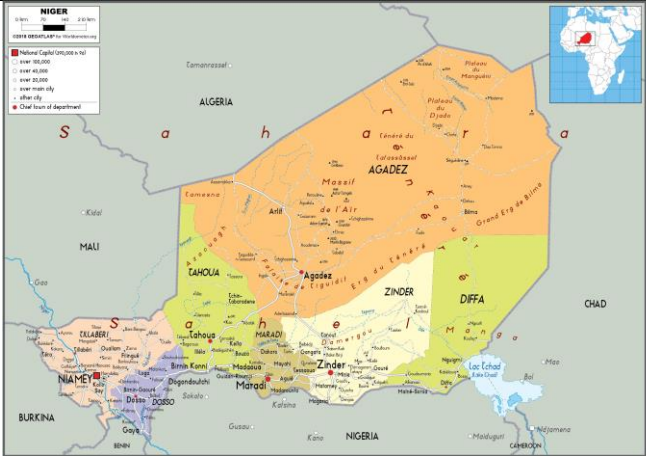
⁸ See: <https://nigertips.com/tourism-in-niger/>

1964), and which is currently called Conservation d'archéologie - Institut de Recherches en Science Humaines, and is part of the University of Niamey⁹. See table 9 in part 2.

⁹ <https://irsh-uam.net/presentation-generale/>

Part 2: The data

Map and table 1: Regions and Population development 1990 and 2018

Map	Region / Région	Population x 1000		'18/ '90
		1990	2018	
	1 = Agadez (North)	140	430	3.1
	2 = Diffa (Southeast)	100	660	6.6
	3 = Dosso (Southwest)	1080	2720	2.5
	4 = Maradi (South)	1650	5020	3.1
	5 = Tahoua (Northwest)	1360	4890	3.6
	6 = Tillabery (around Niamey)	1960	4110	2.1
	7 = Zinder (South)	1740	4600	2.6
Total Niger		8300	22400	2.7

Source for tables 1-4: Globaldatalab, version 4.0 <https://globaldatalab.org/shdi/shdi>

map: https://www.worldometers.info/img/maps/niger_political_map.gif ; Tillabery includes Niamey.

Table 2: Niger: Education index 1990-2018¹⁰

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	18/90
Agadez	221	283	278	371	1.68
Diffa	110	133	128	170	1.55
Dosso	87	122	176	235	2.70
Maradi	58	86	157	221	3.81
Tahoua	44	68	126	172	3.91
Tillabery	128	185	292	410	3.20
Zinder	60	85	142	202	3.37
Total	82	116	180	247	3.01
Inequality	5.0	4.2	2.3	2.4	

Table 3: Niger, Regional data for 'mean years of schooling for adults'

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Agadez	2.4	3.3	2.7	3.8	1.58
Diffa	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.4	2.80

¹⁰ The HDI data, and its components go from 0 (worst level) to 1 (best level). We present the figures x 1000. The inequality figure is the highest value divided by the lowest value in a particular year.

Dosso	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.5	2.50
Maradi	0.4	0.7	1.0	1.4	3.50
Tahoua	0.3	0.5	0.8	1.2	4.00
Tillabery	1.4	2.3	3.2	4.5	3.21
Zinder	0.4	0.7	1.0	1.4	3.50
Total	0.7	1.1	1.5	2.0	2.86
Inequality	8.0	6.6	4.0	3.8	

Table 4: Niger, Regional data for ‘expected years of schooling for children’

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Agadez	5.1	6.2	6.8	8.8	1.73
Diffa	3.4	3.8	3.3	4.4	1.29
Dosso	2.5	3.3	5.0	6.6	2.64
Maradi	1.6	2.2	4.4	6.3	3.94
Tahoua	1.2	1.8	3.5	4.8	4.00
Tillabery	2.9	3.9	6.7	9.4	3.24
Zinder	1.7	2.2	4.0	5.6	3.29
Total	2.1	2.9	4.7	6.5	3.10
Inequality	4.3	3.4	2.1	2.1	

Table 5: Public universities and other higher education institutes in Niger

University	Year of establishment	Location
École africaine de la Météorologie et de l'Aviation civile (EAMAC) (http://www.eamac.ne/)	1963	Niamey
École nationale d'Administration et de Magistrature (ENAM) (http://enam.ne/)	1963	Niamey
Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey, UAM, before 1994: Université de Niamey (http://uam.refer.ne/). First and only university in the 4icu ranking in Niger. Not included in the 4icu's list of top-200 African universities.	1974	Niamey
Centre régional Agrhymet (CRA/ARC) (linked to CILSS), (http://www.agrhymet.ne/)	1974	Niamey
Institut de Formation aux Techniques de d'Information et de Communication (IFTIC), linked to IRD (https://www.ird.fr/les-partenariats/principaux-partenaires-scientifiques/afrique-de-l-ouest-et-centrale/niger/iftic)	1977	Niamey
Université islamique de Say (http://universite-say.com/), also: Oum Al-Qura University (not in 4icu)	1986 (1974)	Say, near Niamey
École des Mines, de l'Industrie et de la Géologie (EMIG) (http://www.emig-niger.org/)	1990	Niamey
Institut Pratique de Sante publique (https://www.ipsp-niger.com/) (not in 4icu)	2002	Niamey
Université de Zinder (see: https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universit%C3%A9_de_Zinder)	2008	Zinder
Université de Maradi, also known as:	2010	Maradi

Université Dan Dicko Dankoulodo de Maradi (UDDM) (https://univ-maradi.org/)		
Université de Tahoua (see: https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universit%C3%A9_de_Tahoua)	2010	Tahoua
Université de Dosso (http://www.univ-dosso.ne/)	2014	Dosso
Université d'Agadez (see: https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universit%C3%A9_d%27Agadez)	2014	Agadez
Université de Diffa (http://www.univ-diffa.ne/)	2014	Diffa
Université Boubakar Ba de Tillabéri (http://uti.refer.ne/)	2014	Tillabéri

Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, 4ICU (<https://www.4icu.org/ne/>, and <https://www.4icu.org/top-universities-africa/>), World Higher Education Database (https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php); <https://www.oreilleducampus.org/repertoire-enseignement-superieur-orientation/75-guide-orientation-niger.html>; and the websites of the institutions, if available.

Table 6: Private Universities in Niger

University	Year of establishment	Location
Université canadienne du Niger (http://canuv.e-monsie.com/)	2002	Niamey
Université ESCAE (http://www.escaeniamey.com/)	2003	Niamey
Université libre de Maradi (linked to Sygmatech) (http://ulmaradi.doomby.com/)	2004	Niamey
Université populaire de Niamey (linked to Université Populaire d'Avignon)	2007?	Niamey
Université SODESI (http://groupesodesi.org/niger/)	2013	Niamey and Maradi
Mariam Abacha American University Maradi (https://maaun.net/)	2015	Maradi
Université Tunisienne Internationale (see: https://www.facebook.com/Universit%C3%A9-Tunisienne-au-Niger-1478405029124198/)	2016	Niamey
African Development University (linked to the Harvard Kennedy School and the ILIMI Foundation in the USA), see: https://www.exelafrica.com/2019/11/01/niger-decouvrez-le-african-development-university-a-d-u/ (not in 4icu)	2017	Niamey
Université Entente Internationale (see: https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Personal-Blog/Universit%C3%A9-Entente-Internationale-151104972153414/)	2017?	Niamey
Université Franco-Arabe Internationale Elhaj Mahmoud Ka'atte	2017?	Niamey?
Swiss UNEF Université de Niger (linked to Université de Genève) (http://umefuni-afrique.swiss/niger/)	2017?	Niamey
Université Africaine des Sciences Sociales Techniques et Médicales UASTM (see: https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/College---University/Universit%C3%A9-Africaine-des-Sciences-Sociales-Techniques-et-M%C3%A9dicales-UASTM-1308219539281860/)	2017?	Niamey
LUCAS University Niger (https://lucas-universities-colleges.net/en/academics/graduate-niger/)	2019	Niamey

Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, 4ICU (<https://www.4icu.org/ne/>, and <https://www.4icu.org/top-universities-africa/>), World Higher Education Database (https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php); <https://www.oreilleducampus.org/repertoire-enseignement-superieur-orientation/75-guide-orientation-niger.html>; and the websites of the institutions, if available.

Table 7: regional distribution of universities and other tertiary knowledge institutions

Region	Public	Private	Total	Number of tertiary institutions per million inhabitants
Agadez	1	0	1	2.3
Diffa	1	0	1	1.5
Dosso	1	0	1	0.4
Maradi	1	1	2	0.4
Tahoua	1	0	1	0.2
Tillabery/Niamey	9	12	21	5.1
Zinder	1	0	1	0.2
Total	15	13	28	1.3

Table 8: Think tanks and other knowledge institutions in Niger

Think tanks	Year of establishment	Location
ICRISAT (part of CGIAR) https://www.icrisat.org/tag/niamey/	1972	Niamey
Institut nigérien d'études stratégiques et internationales, INESI; https://inesi-niger.org/	2012	Niamey

Sources; https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=think_tanks (for: 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report); <http://africathinktanks.org/think-tanks> (no think tanks mentioned in Niger); https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institut_nig%C3%A9rien_d%27%C3%A9tudes_strat%C3%A9giques_et_internationales.

Table 9: Museums in Niger

Museums	websites	Location
Musée National Boubou Hama, started in 1959 as Musée National du Niger	http://www.museenationalduniger.ne/	Niamey
Musée Régional de Dosso (since 1997)	See: http://nigerdiaspora.net/index.php/component/k2/item/14090-mus%C3%A9-r%C3%A9gional-de-dosso--la-r%C3%A9gion-dans-un-mouchoir-de-poche	Dosso

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Musée Régional de Zinder (since 1986)	-	Zinder
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(source: Wikipedia: Museums, and other sources, like <https://www.arts-store.com/mus%C3%A9es-museums-world-1/>). Not included: cultural centres

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